SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LA TEST OFFER ON PAGE 30

BREAKOUT YEAR
B.C.'S KITSCH MOVING BEYOND TEXAS WITH NEW FILMS {page 27}

DINNER PARTY
CREATE A DECADENT RIB-ROAST DINNER
{page 34}

HAT IS BACK
STYLES FROM ALL DECADES BECOMING TRENDY AGAIN {page 31}

VANCOUVER metro®
Thursday, February 2, 2012
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Cabbies accused of sexual assaults

Man, 55, arrested amid ongoing RCMP investigation into Dawson Creek's Golden Cabs

A Dawson Creek taxi company is under investigation after two women and a 13-year-old girl came forward with allegations they were forcibly confined and sexually assaulted by cab drivers.

Mounties say they received a complaint on Jan. 25 that the 13-year-old was lured into a taxi and promised a free ride home. Instead, the victim alleged she was locked inside the cab and sexually assaulted by the driver.

The suspect in this case has not been identified.

Staff Sgt. Milo MacDonald said that investigators discovered two more alleged female victims, both adults, of similar incidents dating back as far as October 2011.

A suspect in one of the cases was identified and has been arrested. Police say charges of sexual assault and forcible confinement are pending against a 55-year-old man.

MacDonald also said they are attempting to identify a second suspect.

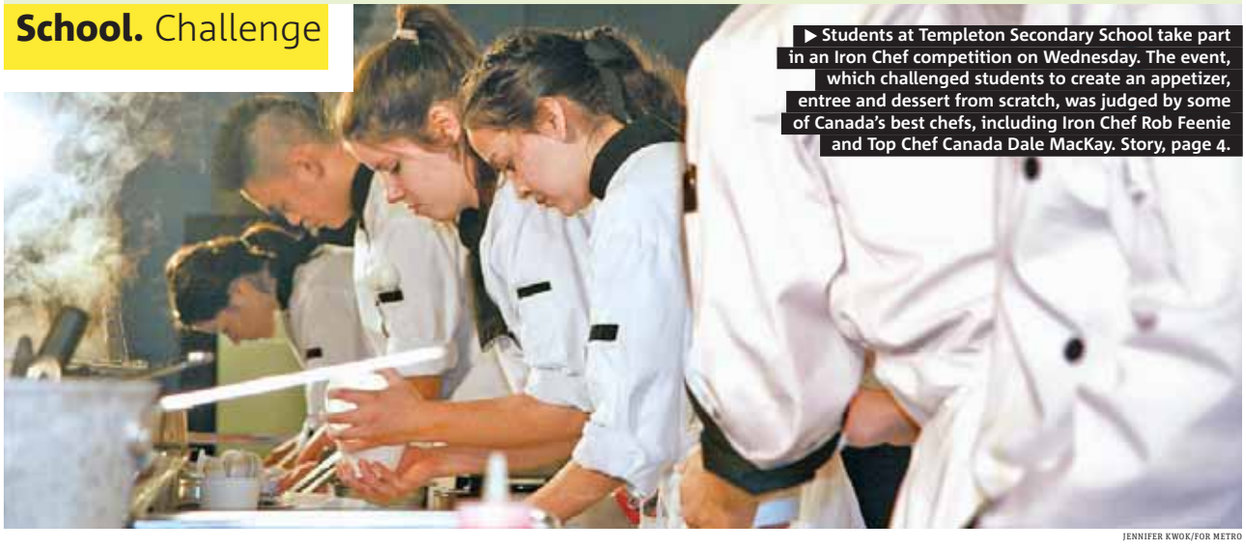
The RCMP have issued a search warrant at the office of Golden Cabs, one of only two taxi companies in Dawson Creek, and are in the process of interviewing more witnesses.

A dispatcher from Golden Cabs said he did not know anything about the allegations and referred questions to owner Abraham Koshin, who could not be reached.

MacDonald said people travelling alone should be vigilant.

"There have been no attacks on groups of people, so people travelling by themselves are more vulnerable," he said. "I think that it's important for parents that are concerned to have safety discussions with their kids and to give them good advice on how to react if somebody makes an inappropriate comment or inappropriate advance to them." PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

School. Challenge



Students at Templeton Secondary School take part in an Iron Chef competition on Wednesday. The event, which challenged students to create an appetizer, entree and dessert from scratch, was judged by some of Canada's best chefs, including Iron Chef Rob Feenie and Top Chef Canada Dale MacKay. Story, page 4.

JENNIFER KWOK/FOR METRO

Budding Iron Chefs go head-to-head in competition

Local

Dix trumps Clark

26% of B.C. residents choose NDP leader as preferred premier in new poll Clark gets 22% of vote {page 3}

Journey awaits at festival

Talking Stick featuring the best of native performance art {page 21}

Oil spreads from wreck of Concordia

Authorities trying to determine extent of leak {page 12}

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Vroom. Vroom

▶ A dump truck deposits a load of dirt at BC Place Wednesday to get ready for Monster Jam.

JENNIFER KWOK/FOR METRO

Monster trucks are roaring into town

More than 300 truckloads of dirt will be packed and formed for the monster-truck show that returns to BC Place after a two-year hiatus. Monster Jam runs Saturday with a Pit Party from 2 to 5 p.m. The main event begins at 7 p.m.

Dix top choice for premier: Poll

On issues, Clark and Dix virtually tied as best person to deal with economy (24% to 23%) and crime (19% to 20%) But Dix leads on health care (33% to 20%) and education (30% to 21%)

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

More British Columbians believe provincial New Democratic Party Leader Adrian Dix would make a better premier than Christy Clark, a new Angus Reid poll has found.

The survey reveals that 26 per cent of residents chose Dix as their preferred premier, followed by Clark, with 22 per cent. B.C. Conservative Party Leader John Cummins was next, with eight per cent, and Green Party Leader Jane Sterk had three per cent.

The Opposition leader's approval rating also moved up five points to 45 per cent, while Clark's inched up one point to 40 per cent.

The poll also found the NDP has expanded its lead over Clark's Liberals, who have dropped below 30 per cent for the first time since Gordon Campbell's departure.

> **"The last time the B.C. Liberals dropped below the 30 per cent mark in voting intention, Gordon Campbell was about to deliver his resignation speech in early November 2010."**
> STATEMENT FROM ANGUS REID PUBLIC OPINION

Of the 800 British Columbian adults surveyed, 42 per cent of decided voters would choose the NDP if an election were called tomorrow, while 28 per cent would support the Liberals. Nineteen per cent went to the B.C. Conservatives and 10 per cent to the Greens.

"The governing party is now losing a quarter of its electors in 2009 to the B.C. Conservatives, and Clark has lost her edge on issues like crime and the economy, which her predecessor used to dominate, even at the pinnacle of his unpopularity," the company said in a statement.

1 news

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Student chefs cook up a storm

- Templeton cafeteria heats up
- A cooking battle's on the boil

JENNIFER KWOK
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

With only 15 seconds left, Luis Aguilar and his teammates carefully squeezed custard onto their dessert, a fruit-lasagna layered parfait, as five other teams put the finishing touches to their dishes.

Sixteen culinary students from Templeton Secondary School participated in an Iron Chef cooking competition on Wednesday. It was judged by four of the city's top chefs.

The ninth annual battle was to determine a "supreme" team.

But for Aguilar and most competitors, it was just a friendly match to show off their passion for cooking.

"It's a fun feeling," said Aguilar.

"We've been preparing together since December and it means a lot to be competing with them (friends)."

Like the TV show, students had a set time to prepare three dishes — an appetizer, an entree and a dessert — from scratch.

"Some people are good at art, some at math. This is what I'm good at."
LUIS AGUILAR

The theme this year was "noodles," and the dishes were judged on presentation, taste and originality.

Rob Feenie, Canada's first Iron Chef and judge for the fourth year, was impressed by the enthusiasm.

"I was 17 when I started cooking," he said. "So same age as these guys. I know it's kind of hard because you're on stage and it's not a good thing when you lose.

"It's great to see what's happening today — love the excitement."

Other judges include Canada's top chef Dale MacKay, former chef at Bishop's Restaurant Dennis Green, and owner of Dan Close Food Concepts, Dan Close.

JENNIFER KWOK/METRO

▶ Nick Lo shows off his dish to Iron Chef Rob Feenie in Templeton Secondary School's cafeteria on Wednesday.

Officer feared she'd be a Pickton scapegoat

The first officer in charge of investigating Vancouver's missing women says she wrote a book about the investigation because she was terrified she'd be the scapegoat in the botched Robert Pickton investigation.

On Wednesday, Det. Const. Lori Shenher told the inquiry looking into the investigation of the serial killer that she wanted to write her story the way she remembered it and with her view on what she thought were police missteps.

"At the time the search began of Mr. Pickton's property, I was quite frankly terrified I was going to be made a scapegoat in this ..."

Shenher testified she didn't think blaming her for the mistakes would be fair. "Part of it was cathartic, part of it was I wanted to get it down and write it down the way I remembered it in its entirety and with my view at the time of what I thought were our failings, including my own." The book was never published.

SCREENGRAB/METRO

▶ Det. Const. Lori Shenher says she identifies herself more as a writer than a police officer.

Under questioning from lawyer Cameron Ward, who represents several families of Pickton's victims, Shenher said her team wasn't being supported by senior officials at the Vancouver Police Department at the time of Pickton's arrest.

In an interview with the officer looking into the Pickton investigation two years after Pickton was arrested, she said the Vancouver Police Department didn't know what it was doing at the time.

Not only was there a lack of leadership, she testified, but there was no acknowledgment from senior brass that this was a major tragedy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online pimping alleged

A Victoria man has been charged over the alleged online prostitution of an underage girl.

The investigation began in 2010 when West Shore RCMP received information that a young girl was being solicited.

Stephen Charlie, 22, of Victoria, is in custody facing charges including procurement, living off the avails of prostitution, kidnapping and assault.

KENDRA WONG

Slow driver nabbed

A drunk driver probably thought he wouldn't attract any attention if he drove really — really — carefully through several Victoria neighbourhoods, but he was wrong.

Saanich Police caught up with him, but they didn't have to speed.

The 27-year-old Saanich man, who blew more than two and a half times over the legal limit, never drove faster than about eight kilometres per hour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawyers step up protest

Another round of courthouse disruptions could be in the works across B.C. as lawyers who act as duty counsel withdraw their services.

The Trial Lawyers Association of B.C. says Phase 2 of its job action is beginning as members demand better funding for legal aid.

Phase 2 will see services withheld until February 14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Let your inner geek run wild

Vancouverites will now have a chance to geek out.

Canada's largest multi-genre fan convention is coming to town with Fan Expo Vancouver, which will feature heavy hitters in the world of comics, gaming, anime, horror and sci-fi.

The list of celebrity appearances include the original Batman and Robin, Adam West and Burt Ward, Harry Potter actor Tom Felton and True Blood star Kristen Bauer.

Anime fans will also get a chance to meet the voice actors behind their favourite characters, including Veronica Taylor (Pokemon), Richard Cox (Inu Yasha) and Mike McFarland (Dragonball Z).

The convention, which will take place at the Vancouver Convention Centre on April 21 and 22, will have autograph and photo opportunities with celebrities and creators, sketching duels, a Star Wars photo session, costumes and cosplay events, and an "ultimate fan expo party."

Tickets go on sale Feb. 21. Single-day tickets are $20 and a weekend pass is $30. Kids 12 and under get in free. For more information visit fanexpovancouver.com.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

STEPHEN SHUGERMAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Actors Burt Ward, left, and Adam West of Batman at the 2006 TV Land Awards in Santa Monica, Calif.

Author inspires innovation at Cities Summit

Tourism is the cornerstone of a city's economic growth and financial success, author Douglas Coupland said Wednesday.

The Vancouver writer delivered the keynote speech at the Cities Summit, a conference examining how city-building can be influenced by emerging technology, at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

Coupland encouraged them to fight what he calls the "download revolution" by offering tourists and residents an experience that the Internet cannot offer.

He said that other cities are not the main competition when attracting tourists and residents; instead, it is the Internet — from World of Warcraft to downloadable TV shows and videos of cats playing the piano.

"People want to visit places that spark imagination," he said during the luncheon. "Do you have a large Ukrainian community? Do you have lobsters? Do you have muscle builders? Take whatever it is you have and throw money into it — find your fringes and turn it into festivals."

KENDRA WONG

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO FILE

▶ Douglas Coupland

Benefit concert set for musician

Randy Ponzio was a local artist who was found dead last year

Kyprios and Chin Injeti are among the two dozen artists participating in a benefit concert for the children of a Vancouver musician who died last year.

Bruce Randall "Randy" Ponzio, 35, was reported missing after he failed to return home from a bar in November. His body was discovered days later in a room at the Balmoral Hotel in the 100 block of East Hastings.

"All of his friends knew that the purpose for his success was to provide for his children, who were the light and love of his life," said Nova Koocher, his manager. "He was a good father, a good friend and a good man."

The concert will be held on Friday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. at the Commodore Ballroom.

The lineup also includes local artists such as David Morin, Dan Ross, Chantel Upshaw, and Foundation.

Tickets are $40 in advance and proceeds will go to Ponzio's family.

KENDRA WONG

CHRIS GUY/SUBMITTED

▶ Randy Ponzio, 35, was found dead in a room at the Balmoral Hotel in November 2011.

COURT

Former premier meets his foe

Former British Columbia premier Mike Harcourt faced his old political foe Bill Vander Zalm in court Wednesday in relation to an inquiry that forced Vander Zalm from office and crushed his government in 1991.

The lawsuit against Vander Zalm was filed by former conflict-of-interest commissioner Ted Hughes, who claims the ex-premier sullied his reputation in his 2008 book and conspired with Harcourt to ruin Vander Zalm.

Hughes conducted an inquiry that found Vander Zalm breached conflict-of-interest guidelines involving the controversial sale of his Fantasy Garden World theme park, leading to the premier's immediate resignation on April 2, 1991. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dispute over garbage turns violent: police

It was almost a scene out of a pirate movie, with knife-wielding men boarding a boat only to be confronted by a defender swinging a rope with a weight attached.

Police say it happened in Victoria's Gorge waterway Tuesday when two men in a skiff boarded a larger vessel and assaulted two other men living on board.

Police say it appears the incident was triggered by a dispute over garbage that had built up on the larger boat.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Robbery sends five to jail

A late-night robbery in Burnaby has landed five alleged robbers in jail.

On Jan. 26, one male entered a business on North Road and escaped with an undisclosed amount of cash. He and four other men were arrested outside the business. METRO

Child-labour project launched

The B.C. Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition launched a project Wednesday to help fill in information about young children in the workforce.

METRO

Restore student grants: Dix

NDP Leader Adrian Dix is calling on the B.C. government to restore student grants.

He was speaking at the UBC-Okanagan campus in Kelowna Wednesday as thousands of students across the country staged rallies to demand increases in government funding for education to check the rise of tuition fees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canpages closes B.C. shop

Most people's fingers don't "do the walking" through the phone book anymore — and that may be one reason for the sudden closure of Yellow Media's Canpages directory division in B.C.

Canpages publishes phone books, but with most people searching for phone numbers online, ad revenues for hard-copy directories have plunged.

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News in brief

Scammers target seniors

PHONE SCAM. Two men trying to scam a Fraser Valley senior got much more than they expected when a Chilliwack RCMP officer picked up the call.

One of the men claimed to be the victim's grandson and the other said he was the grandson's lawyer on a drunk driving charge in Montreal.

They wanted the victim to send several thousand dollars for legal fees but didn't know the elderly woman had already alerted police — and an officer was in the home to answer the call.

A similar scam in North Vancouver worked days earlier but the suspects got nothing in this case but a stern lecture. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Town rallies for fire victims

TRUST FUND. The Northern B.C. community of Mackenzie is pulling together to help the devastated family of twin toddlers killed in a house fire.

A trust fund is being set up (at Mackenzie's Scotiabank branch) in memory of the boy and girl — who would have turned two later this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Province helps grandparents

SUPPORT LINE. The B.C. government is spending $100,000 to support grandparents who raise their grandchildren.

Much of the money will be spent on a support line after a request to government from the group Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Renowned bike race returns

Internationally recognized Gastown Grand Prix returns with a new name and a new sponsor ▶ Historic race was cancelled in 2009

KENDRA WONG
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

KERI MEDIG/METRO FILE

▶ Racers tackle the hairpin corner in the 2005 Tour de Gastown.

Cyclists will race through the streets of Gastown in July with the return of the popular local cycling race, Gastown Grand Prix.

The historic race, which began in the 1970s, was cancelled in 2009 due to sponsorship shortfall.

This year, professional cyclists from around the world will take the Vancouver stage again with the help of the Gastown Business Improvement Association and a new title sponsor that has agreed to support the race in a multi-year agreement.

"All of these events bring tremendous value to the communities that they're in," said Mark Ernsting, race director. "The athletes provide a top-notch North American event, and locals benefit from those riders coming from abroad."

Formerly known as the Tour de Gastown, the one-day event, featuring 150 to 200 participants, has drawn crowds as large as 40,000 people.

The race is part of B.C. Superweek beginning with the Tour de Delta from July 6-8, the UBC Grand Prix on July 10, the Gastown GP on the 11th, Giro di Burnaby on July 12 and ending with the Tour de White Rock from July 13-15.

In the past, the race has drawn professional cyclists such as Lance Armstrong and Tyler Farrar.

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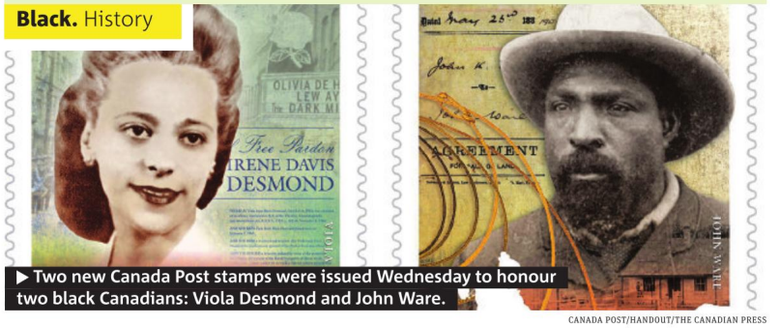
Black. History



▶ Two new Canada Post stamps were issued Wednesday to honour two black Canadians: Viola Desmond and John Ware.

CANADA POST/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Postal tributes to Canadian icons

The stamps commemorate Viola Desmond, who sat in the whites-only section of a Nova Scotia theatre. She was forcibly removed, arrested and fined. John Ware was a former U.S. slave who became a pioneer of the ranching industry in Alberta.

Canadian woman faces charges in Gadhafi plot

Cynthia Vanier, a mediator from Mount Forest, Ont., has been formally charged in a plot to allegedly smuggle Moammar Gadhafi's son into that country by arranging secret flights and falsifying passports.

Charges have also been laid on two Mexicans and a Danish suspect.

"Her situation has changed, she is no longer detained pending charges, there has now been an arrest warrant," Veronica Gil, a spokeswoman with the state's attorney's office, told The Canadian Press. "We have established formal charges."

The charges include attempted human trafficking, falsifying documents and organized crime.

The arrests, announced during a news conference in Mexico, stem from an investigation officials said began in 2009 over the theft of 4,586 blank Mexican passports.

Prosecutors allege the accused tried to sneak Gadhafi and his family into the country, renting an airplane to fly them to Mexico. The attempt was foiled, they say, because the pilots refused to land secretly.

The ring, purportedly led by Vanier, then allegedly made arrangements for a second attempt, hiring pilots and a plane. But Mexican authorities were tipped off to the scheme and arrested the four suspects in November. All four had been held without charges for nearly three months.

Up until they were detained, authorities said, the group worked toward their goal of smuggling the family to Mexico, falsifying documents, obtaining credit and buying a home in Bahia de Banderas in the Nayarit area, where the Gadhafis were to hide out, as well as another apartment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family outcry

Vanier's parents denied the allegations against their daughter, and expressed frustration over the Canadian government's lack of involvement.

- **Vanier's parents say that** their daughter is terrified. She has no medication and that the cell has no running water.
- **A spokesman for Foreign** Affairs said Canada would continue to interact with Mexican authorities on Vanier's behalf "as required," especially to ensure that her medical concerns are addressed.

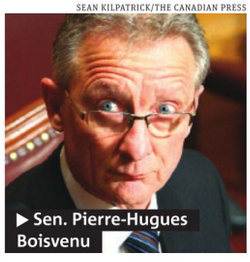
Senator withdraws controversial words

Tory Boisvenu apologizes for suggesting killers be given rope so that they could consider suicide

A Conservative senator backed away from an unconventional proposal Wednesday for reducing prison costs: give serial murderers a rope and let them decide whether to hang themselves.

"Basically, every killer should (have) the right to his own rope in his cell. They can decide whether to live," Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu said, referring to people who "had no hope of rehabilitation."

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Sen. Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu

The comment about hanging came on the same day an awareness campaign was launched on youth mental health. There have also been a number of recent, high-profile prison suicides in Quebec.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper distanced himself from the remarks, but said he understood Boisvenu's feelings. Boisvenu became a victims'-rights advocate after his daughter was kidnapped, raped and murdered in 2002. Harper appointed him to the Senate two years ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Hitman's roots traced

Long before bouncing off a turnbuckle or delivering a body-slam, ancestors of one of professional wrestling's most notorious families travelled much of the known world.

That's according to researchers with National Geographic's Genographic Project, who recently acquired and analyzed a sample of DNA provided by Bret Hart.

"It pretty much goes back to the beginning of time," he told Metro. "When you understand the dynamics of it, it's really interesting stuff."

Leading researcher Dr. Spencer Wells said the project aims to answer an almost philosophical question — where do we all come from?

In the Hart instance, Bret says analysis suggests his ancestors can be linked to areas like India, Iran and much of Europe.

METRO

Senate begins hearings on omnibus crime bill

The Conservative government's massive new crime bill is getting a sober second look from the Senate, and the controversial legislation is expected to see government-sponsored changes.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson and Public Safety Minister Vic Toews testified Wednesday to kick off 11 days of public hearings, which under normal circumstances would get a rubber stamp from the Tory-dominated Senate committee on legal and constitutional affairs.

"Canadians deserve to feel safe in their homes and that means violent criminals need to be off the streets," Nicholson told the committee.

But in the Harper majority's haste to push the crime bill through Parliament last fall, some specific flaws were overlooked by the House of Commons committee charged with examining the legislation in detail.

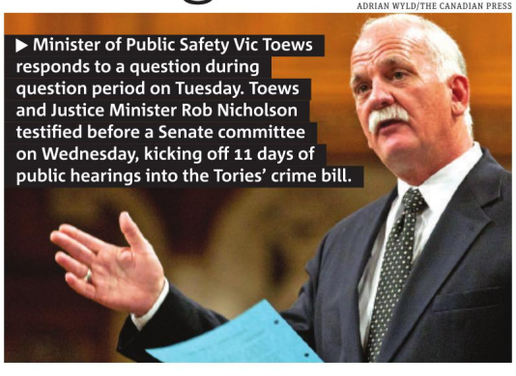
Liberal Irwin Cotler, a former justice minister, had repeatedly pointed out ways to broaden the bill so that terrorism victims and their families could sue state sponsors of terror.

Late last November, Toews ended up attempting to introduce similar changes after Conservative MPs on the committee doing a clause-by-clause review repeatedly voted down the Liberal proposals.

But the Speaker ruled that Toews' amendments should have been made at committee, leaving it to the Senate to mop up the mess.

Nicholson confirmed Wednesday that the Senate will be asked to make amendments on the terrorism aspect of the bill.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews responds to a question during question period on Tuesday. Toews and Justice Minister Rob Nicholson testified before a Senate committee on Wednesday, kicking off 11 days of public hearings into the Tories' crime bill.

But it's not likely other more contentious parts of the legislation will change, despite some extremely pointed questions from Liberal senators Wednesday.

The government's omnibus Bill C-10 combines nine different pieces of legislation covering a wide range of issues.

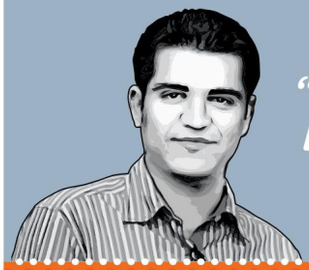
In addition to new provisions for victims of terrorism, the bill creates new mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes and child-sex crimes, sharply reduces the use of house arrest, toughens the treatment of young offenders and those seeking criminal pardons, and gives the government new discretion on handling the cases of Canadians jailed outside the country.

Critics of the bill cite falling crime rates and say the cost of increased incarceration will be enormous, while rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts falls through the cracks.

The government believes tougher laws will further protect Canadians and hold criminals accountable.

Toews noted Wednesday that, under changes enacted to date, the number of people in jail has not climbed as quickly as critics had predicted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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F-f-f-frosty. Europe

▶ An elderly couple brave the bitter cold as they walk alongside the Moscow River on Wednesday. Temperatures in the area fell to -21 C.

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe battles cold spell

Rescue helicopters evacuated dozens of people from snow-blocked villages in Serbia and Bosnia, and airlifted in emergency food and medicine as a severe cold spell kept Eastern Europe in its icy grip.

Oil from Concordia cruise ship spreads through Italy's waters

Activists fear leaking fuel will harm marine life ▶ Officials identify 17th body

PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia lies on its side off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy.

A thin film of oil spread from the Costa Concordia cruise ship as waves battered the wreckage off Italy's coast Wednesday, adding to fears of an environmental disaster in the area's sensitive, pristine waters. Authorities were trying to assess how serious and extensive the spread was, but said that so far it didn't appear alarming.

Italian authorities also identified a German woman, Siglinde Stumpf, as being among those killed in the Jan. 13 capsizing of the vessel. Stumpf is the 17th person whose body has been identified. Fifteen others are listed as missing.

The search for the missing has been hampered by rough seas, with emergency officials ending the search in the submerged part of the ship due to the danger to rescue workers.

A large crack also appeared Wednesday between two glass panels that formed part of the roof of the massive ship.

The oil film was spreading from a separate part of the ship, apparently the stern.

The ship contains about 500,000 gallons of heavy fuel and other pollutants, and fears have grown that those chemicals could damage an environment that is home to dolphins, whales and other marine life.

Authorities are hoping to pump fuel from the ship, but due to bad weather the effort was being suspended again Wednesday.

Floating barriers placed around the ship to protect the water were lifted by winds, allowing the oily film from the ship to spread throughout the bay. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

UN considers plans as Syrian uprising flares

LOCAL COORDINATION COMMITTEES IN SYRIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Anti-Syrian regime protesters hold a caricature of Syrian President Bashar Assad's father during a demonstration.

Syrian troops battled army defectors in a string of towns in the mountains overlooking Damascus on Wednesday in a new assault to crush rebellious areas around the capital, activists said.

The battles in a mountain valley came after regime forces succeeded in largely retaking control of suburbs on the eastern side of the city in an offensive the past week that fueled some of the bloodiest days of the nearly 11-month-old uprising. More than 30 people were killed around the country Wednesday, activists said.

Activists say President Bashar Assad's forces have intensified their crackdown in hopes of silencing protesters and the army dissidents who have joined them as the United Nations Security Council debates a draft resolution demanding that Assad step down.

On Tuesday, Western powers and Arab countries at the U.N. sought to overcome Russia's opposition to the measure.

Addressing the Security Council, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton tried to allay Moscow's concerns that the resolution could open the door to eventual military intervention in Syria, as took place in Libya last year.

"I know that some members here may be concerned that the Security Council is headed toward another Libya," she said.

"That is a false analogy."

"It is time for the international community to put aside our own differences and send a clear message of support to the people of Syria," Clinton said.

Russia has stood by Assad as he tries to crush an uprising that began last March.

In October, Moscow vetoed the first Security Council attempt to condemn Syria's crackdown and has shown little sign of budging in its rejection of the new measure. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Soccer. Clash

▶ Players from the Egyptian Al-Ahly club run for safety during clashes following their soccer match against Al-Masry at the soccer stadium in Port Said, Egypt, Wednesday. Dozens of Egyptians were killed in the riot.

AHMED HASSAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly soccer riot resembled 'war'

At least 74 people were killed and hundreds injured when soccer fans rushed the field following an upset victory by the home team, Al-Masry, over its top club, Al-Ahly, setting off clashes and a stampede as riot police largely failed to intervene.

Ferry sinks off Papua New Guinea

Rescuers have plucked 50 survivors from the sea off Papua New Guinea's east coast after a ferry sank Thursday with as many as 350 people on board, officials said.

An airplane from Australia, three helicopters and six ships were scouring the search area after the MV Rabaul Queen went down while travelling from Kimbe on the island of New Britain to coastal town of Lae on the main island, Australian Maritime Safety Authority said in a statement.

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard called the incident a "major tragedy" and said her country was providing assistance to its near neighbour.

An Australian statement said 350 people were believed to be on board, but Papua New Guinea's National Maritime Safety Authority said the true figure was likely lower.

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Romney talking like top contender

Half of Florida's primary voters said most important factor for them was a candidate who could defeat Obama

Mitt Romney clobbered Newt Gingrich by 14 percentage points in Florida's Republican primary vote and moves on to the next state, Nevada, with a fat campaign bankroll and a renewed sense that he is the inevitable challenger to President Barack Obama in November.

Romney spoke as though he was the presumptive nominee Tuesday night, declaring himself ready "to lead this party and our nation."

"Mr. President, you were elected to lead, you chose to follow, and now it's time to get out of the way," he said.

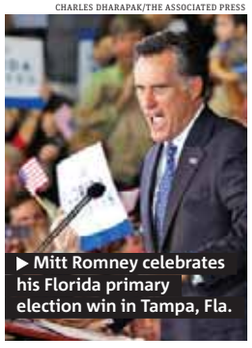
Obama's campaign issued a fundraising appeal Wednesday focused on the millions that Romney and his supporters have poured into negative ads.

"That's ugly, and it tells us a lot about what to expect from Romney if he wins the Republican nomination," said campaign manager Jim Messina. "They're going to try to spend and smear their way to the White House."

With Obama vulnerable in his bid for a second White House term because of the slow U.S. economic recovery, about half of Florida primary voters said the most important factor for them was a candidate who could defeat the president, according to exit poll results conducted for The Associated Press and television networks.

Florida was one of the hardest hit states after the collapse of the U.S. housing market. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Mitt Romney celebrates his Florida primary election win in Tampa, Fla.

What. Winter?

▶ Hundreds of cars are stranded on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago on Feb. 2, 2011, top, while traffic moves smoothly on the same stretch of road on Wednesday.

KIICHIRO SATO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A change in the weather

This time last year, Chicago was covered in snow, following a winter blizzard of historic proportions, stranding hundreds of drivers for up to 12 hours overnight on the city's main thoroughfare and giving many city schoolchildren their first-ever snow day.

Aussie bus workers net big bonus

Employees of an Australian bus company have been given a $15-million AU share of the proceeds of the sale of the business as a thank-you for their loyalty, the Herald Sun newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The 1,800 staff at Melbourne-based Grenda Corp. have received bonuses averaging more than $8,300 and as much as $30,000 after the Grenda family sold the 66-year-old business for $400 million, the Herald Sun newspaper reported.

Chief executive Geoff Grenda described the gratitude of staff — one of whom had been with the company for 52 years — as "overwhelming."

"We've had lots of loyal people over our 66-year journey and this was our way of rewarding the ones that are still with us," he told Nine Network television. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tunisian billionaire to face refugee board

A billionaire member of Tunisia's once-dominant ruling clan whose stay in Canada since last year has been shrouded in mystery is scheduled to make a public appearance soon.

Belhassen Trabelsi has remained under the radar since a much-publicized arrival amid turmoil in his native Tunisia, where his family stands accused of siphoning millions of dollars from the state.

The Immigration and Refugee Board announced Wednesday that Trabelsi has a date before its appeal division on April 23 to fight a decision to revoke his residency and boot him out of the country.

According to the IRB, the reason for the hearing is the appeal of an order revoking his Canadian permanent-resident status.

Federal authorities have been tight-lipped about Trabelsi's case, but have confirmed that officials with Citizenship and Immigration Canada recommended his residency be revoked not long after he arrived in January 2011.

Robert Gervais, a spokesman for the IRB, said Wednesday that because Trabelsi appealed, his status continues to be valid pending the result of that case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HASSENE DRIDI. AP/ THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ In this Jan. 15, 2011, photo, a man carries goods from the house of Belhassen Trabelsi, the brother of the former president's wife, Leila Ben Ali, in Sokra, Tunisia.

Most wanted

- **In a leaked diplomatic cable** from 2008, U.S. diplomats referred to Trabelsi as the "most notorious family member."
- **The family** was accused of operating like the Mob: Extorting money from shop owners, demanding a stake in businesses large and small.

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Delta Tech Technology: 1523 West Broadway

ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is making a final effort at Britain's Supreme Court to avoid his extradition to Sweden to face sex-crimes allegations.

Last-ditch effort for Assange

WikiLeaks founder tries to persuade British court not to extradite him

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has launched a final attempt to persuade British officials not to force him to go to Sweden to face sex crimes allegations.

A lawyer for the 40-year-old Australian told Britain's highest court Wednesday that age-old legal tradition would be compromised if it endorsed a European Arrest Warrant written up by Swedish prosecutors.

This is the latest chapter in Assange's months-long fight against allegations of molestation and rape lodged by two women he met in Sweden in 2010, just as his website grabbed worldwide attention with its leaks of sensitive U.S. government documents.

Assange denies the allegations, arguing that the sex was consensual, and has refused to return to Sweden, saying he fears the case against him is being manipulated to political ends. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Canada leaning less on U.S.: TD

The Canadian economy appears to be on a long-term trend toward less dependence on the United States, according to a new study by TD Economics.

The study, released Wednesday, found that Canada's economic reliance on the U.S. in terms of share of exports and GDP has dropped steadily over the last decade. For example, exports to the U.S. directly contributed an annual average of 0.5 percentage points to nominal GDP growth over the last decade. That was well below an average annual contribution of 2.3 percentage points during the 1980s and 1990s.

TD Economics says a rebound in U.S. economic growth should boost Canadian exports south of the border over the next few years.

But over the long term, the bank said Canada's economic prosperity will increasingly be driven by trade with other non-U.S. economies.

That will reinforce the trend in recent years, where Canadian economic power is shifting more and more from Central Canada to the energy and resource-rich western provinces. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 65.51 (12,517.66)	+ 0.37¢ (100.09¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
- 87¢ US ($97.61 US)	$2.32 US (- 18¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,749.50 US (+ $9.10 US)

Facebook's IPO pokes Wall Street elites

Facebook made a much-anticipated status update Wednesday: It is going public eight years after its CEO Mark Zuckerberg started the service. If its initial public offering makes enough friends on Wall Street, Facebook will probably make its stock-market debut in three or four months as one of the world's most valuable companies. It hopes to raise $5 billion US through the IPO. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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While we always love to share student success stories, on occasion one really stands out, surprising even us. This year we want to recognize ***Marc Ramsey*** *for providing our student success story of the year. Marc hit the ground running when he started working with MMG last spring. He has completed three flips including a high-rise luxury condo and a house that has been fully rehab-ed. Even more impressive is his most recent accomplishment.Marc just purchased a 44 unit apartment complex with three separate buildings for a mere $150,000. Once the rehab is completed, Marc will still be under $500,000. This will give him a stabilized asset of one MILLION DOLLARS with a NOI of over $200,000 per year. We cannot express how proud we are of Marc's accomplishment and are thrilled that MMG was able to help him realize his financial dreams.*

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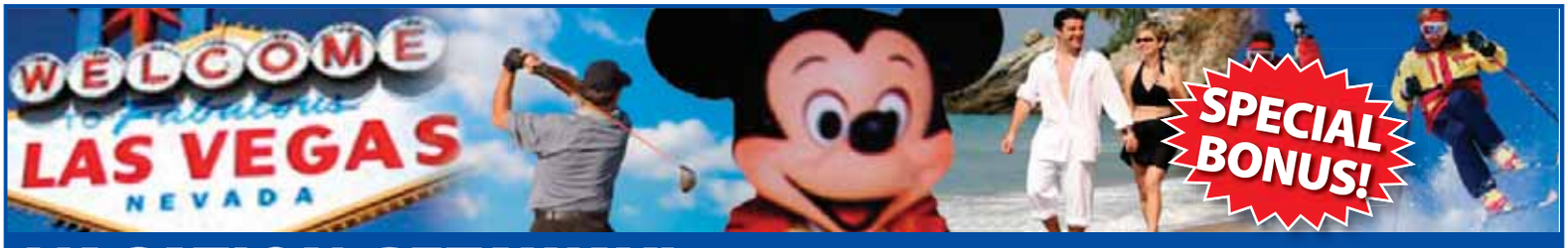

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Pensions prevent poverty: Research

PM says OAS/GIC pension system needs overhaul ▶ Collection age could rise from 65 to 67 to cut costs

Research prepared for the federal government in 2009 shows that the old-age benefits cited by Stephen Harper as perhaps unsustainable are a key factor keeping seniors out of poverty.

The paper, titled Evaluation of the Old Age Security Program, shows that without Old Age Security or the Guaranteed Income Supplement, more than a third of women and more than a quarter of men in their 60s would fall below the poverty line.

"The OAS programs have a significant influence on the incidence of low income," the report's author, Richard Shillington, wrote.

The benefits are most important in the Maritimes and the North. "The OAS/GIS makes a huge contribution to the reduction of poverty in old age," said Andrew Jackson, chief economic for the labour congress.

Prime Minister Harper announced last week that the public pension system is fiscally unsustainable, with costs expected to rise to $108 billion in 2030 from $41 billion this year.

Cutting costs will likely include raising the collection age. The presumption, said Jackson, is that people will work for an extra two years. "That is possible for some, but many older workers in their 60s are in ill health or are engaged in providing care for others."

The research was obtained by the Canadian Labour Congress through an access-to-information request and provided to The Canadian Press.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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OAS/GIC stats

- **About 98 per cent** of Canadians are eligible for OAS when they turn 65. To get the GIS top-up for low-income seniors, they must first qualify for OAS.
- **Research shows** that OAS and GIS improve an senior's standard of living by about $7,000 a year.
- **For seniors with "modest" incomes,** OAS and GIS accounts for 70 per cent of their incomes.

Name. Game

▶ A Target Apparel store is shown in the Rainbow Centre in Sudbury, Ont., last January.

GINO DONATO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nothing fair-weather for Target

American chain Target Corp. has reached a deal with Fairweather Ltd. under which the Canadian fashion retailer has agreed to stop using the Target name.

Canadian car sales accelerate

Automakers saw strong Canadian sales in January with many reporting double-digit growth from a year ago. Overall sales grew 15.4 per cent to 97,497 vehicles last month, according to data released Wednesday from the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada. This is attributed to low interest rates, the search for better fuel efficiency and replacing old vehicles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WINTER, WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER?

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

Dear Winter:

Please come back. I miss you.

It was cute at first, you disappearing. I thought it was for effect, maybe. You just wanted to wait till the best moment, then, surprise! You'd show yourself when we least expected it. You flake, you.

But another week slid by.

Then I thought maybe you were making fun of all those weatherpeople who predicted a deep freeze. Stupid "meteorologists" and their TV-ready descriptions of complex systems. ("After the break, we'll tell you about tomorrow's Sleet Quasar!")

You showed them, I thought. But, then, still no sign of you.

Most recently, I thought maybe you wanted to make a point about other disappearances — manufacturing jobs, polar bears, the Toronto Maple Leafs at playoff time. These are good, important points to make. But, if that was your intention, your point has been made.

Where are you? You snapped in Edmonton a couple times, and blew through the Maritimes this week, but that's been pretty much it.

Let's have some Real Talk, OK? You're being selfish.

If you won't think of us, won't you think of the children? You're denying kids important life lessons they only learn when you're around. Like, when I was young, I learned that sledding had an elaborate social pecking order, from the kid who owned a GT Snowracer (King of the Hill) to the kid with the Crazy Carpet that was always reverting to its Fruit Roll-Up shape (Lowly Serf).

You provided me some of my only adventures growing up. In New Brunswick, we didn't have any of the most common natural disasters — hurricanes, earthquakes, Bryan Adams concerts. The only Discovery Channel doc you'd ever see filmed in my hometown is Fog Chasers.

So, craving excitement, I had to get by with delivering newspapers in blizzards or playing street hockey in -15 C weather. It's perhaps sad that I've never felt more alive.

If this is what it takes to get you back, let me say this: I'm sorry. I'm sorry I took you for granted.

You were harsh, but I realize now it was necessary. A playful pinch to the cheeks or even a cold slap is a welcome respite from the limp handshake of the muddy impostor that has taken your place.

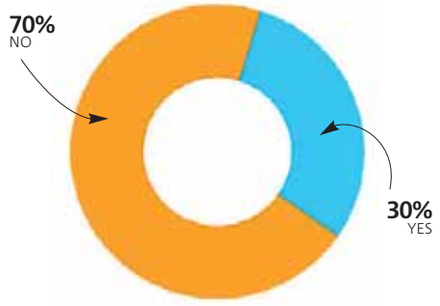
I miss making the first scritch-scritch footprints in a park of untouched snow. I miss Arctic fog rising off the water on a frigid day. I miss your cold embrace.

The place just isn't the same without you, Winter. Come back: my Crazy Carpet is always unrolled for you.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Have you ever been a victim of cyberbullying?



Local tweets

- **@FarhanLaljiTSN:** #BCLions have released QB Jarious Jackson. He'll be a great coach one day, but he still wants to play one more season. #classact
- **@VanCanucks:** AV - Luongo to start tomorrow.
- **@NeilChantler:** Ward: did a VPD culture of misogyny play a role in these failed investigations? Shenher: it does, even today, in all institutions. #MWCI
- **@BenWest:** "B.C. income gap getting worse" "In Cuba they don't have any income inequality... they're all poor" K Falcon #BCpoli
- **@BobRansford:** Shaw's Cam Kernahan: metro area wifi networks will be game changers. Will be much faster than 3G cell networks #citiessummit2012
- **@SebastienLeToux:** I am very excited to play for Vancouver Whitecaps! Can't wait to see my new teammates and meet the fans,and discover more this great city...

Daily Zoom

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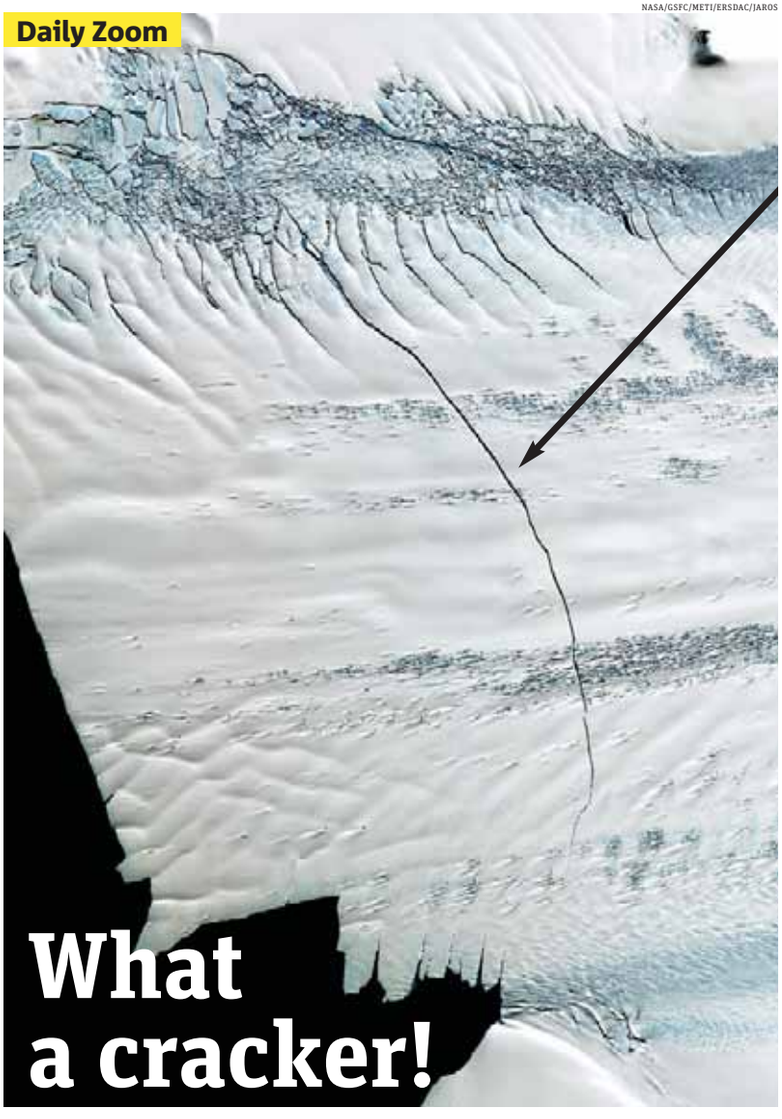

Crevice cuts ice from the north

ANTARCTICA. Nay, nay, it's not a scratch — it's a 30-kilometre-long crack that will carve an iceberg the size of New York City!

NASA has spotted a deep crevice on Pine Island Glacier, an ice stream that drains the West Antarctic Ice Sheet.

The image, taken in November 2011 but only released Wednesday, shows the crack's growth. MWN

80X60

The ice crack is 80 metres wide and 60 metres deep. Measurements suggest the ice shelf in the region is about 500 metres thick, with only about 50 metres of that floating above water.

Pine Island

- **The Pine Island Glacier is part of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and** contains enough water to raise sea levels worldwide by more than six metres.
- Experts last year discovered warm currents are eroding ice from below, twice as fast as previously thought.

metro

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Unconventional trip

Take a journey with the Talking Stick Festival **Featuring artists from various disciplines**

BACKSTAGE PASS

GRAEME MCRANOR
METRO VANCOUVER

Well, it's a new month.

Welcome to February, the time to forget about its depressive predecessor, January.

All your holiday bills are paid and the weather has finally turned for the, well — it's still going to be dark and dreary for the foreseeable future. But that's OK because summer is right around the corner.

Positive thinking, right?

Still, we can be happy that this month brings the Talking Stick Festival. Presented by Full Circle: First Nations Performance, the 11th installment of the festival opens Feb. 20 and runs all the way until March 4 (which is that much closer to summer) at various venues around the city. Featuring dance (and Aboriginal choreographers Rulan Tangen, Brian Solomon and Tanya Lukin-Linklater), music, slam poetry and, of course, theatre, Talking Stick's got something for everyone.

"It has always been my dream to showcase world class pieces of Aboriginal Canadian theatre in the festival, and this year the dream is realized," says Talking Stick's artistic managing director, Margo Kane. "We are presenting many artists of various disciplines whose creative spirits have been nurtured to reach a level of maturity exhibited in their rich works at this year's festival."

> **"It has always been my dream to showcase world class pieces of Aboriginal Canadian theatre."**
> MARGO KANE

Here's a snapshot at some of Talking Stick highlights:

Metis Mutt by Sheldon Elter

Autobiographical one-man show about Metis actor/writer/director and musician Sheldon Elter's coming of age through difficult family and cultural circumstances. At the Roundhouse Community Centre, Tuesday Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. and Wednesday Feb. 22 at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

In a World Created by a Drunken God

Powerful drama by one of Canada's leading First Nations playwrights, Drew Hayden Taylor, the play asks questions "that transcend issues of culture, morality and history, cutting to the heart of what it means to be human in a world stripped of convenient labels and identity politics." At the Roundhouse Community Centre, Feb. 23 – 25 at 8 p.m.

JOE MCNALLY

▶ Rulan Tangen performs in the annual Talking Stick Festival beginning Feb. 20.

2 scene

New Jersey

Hoboken, New Jersey, has denied a request for a spin-off of MTV's Jersey Shore reality show to film in the city. It is to star Nicole Snooki Polizzi and Jenni JWoww Farley.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neil Young: Steve Jobs listened to vinyl because of higher fidelity

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Men, watch for it

DC Comics announcing it will release a prequel series to the popular graphic novel the Watchmen ▶ Creator Alan Moore not involved in series

SAM CASTONE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

A seven-part prequel series to Watchmen, one of the most popular graphic novels of all time, will appear this summer, according to DC Entertainment, publishers of DC Comics.

The news is sure to excite fanboys, but also disgust some: Original Watchmen creator Alan Moore, who has long feuded with DC, is not involved with the new series and none too happy about their decision.

Instead, a pack of other star talents, including J. Michael Straczynski (The Amazing Spider-Man) and Darwyn Cooke (Catwoman), will write installments, each centering around a different character.

"It's our responsibility as publishers to find new ways to keep all of our characters relevant," said DC Entertainment co-publishers Dan DiDio and Jim Lee.

"After 25 years, the Watchmen are classic characters whose time has come for new stories to be told. We sought out the best writers and artists in the industry to build on the complex mythology of the original."

The original, published in 1986 and 1987, followed a defunct batch of superheroes brought back together after the death of a colleague.

But as PhD candidates can tell you, it's also a deep reflection on postwar American anxiety and paranoia.

Time Magazine named it one of the best 100 novels of all time.

Moore, meanwhile, lives in England, and continues to write — just not for DC.

"Completely shameless," he called the prequels.

Watch for it

Looking ahead, John Higgins, who illustrates the novels, said that even though the Watchmen has become a touchstone for comics and graphic novels, the new series can expand on its mythology.

▶ **John Higgins:** "The challenge is to make the stories modern and relevant to 2012 and to show what can be done with respect and consideration for the source material that has inspired so many people over the years. By adding to the mythos and not to detract from it. The Watchmen had such an influence on graphic storytelling since it first appeared and is a timeless classic. If we can create a new set of stories that can be enjoyed 25 years on, that would be an achievement and a reward in itself."

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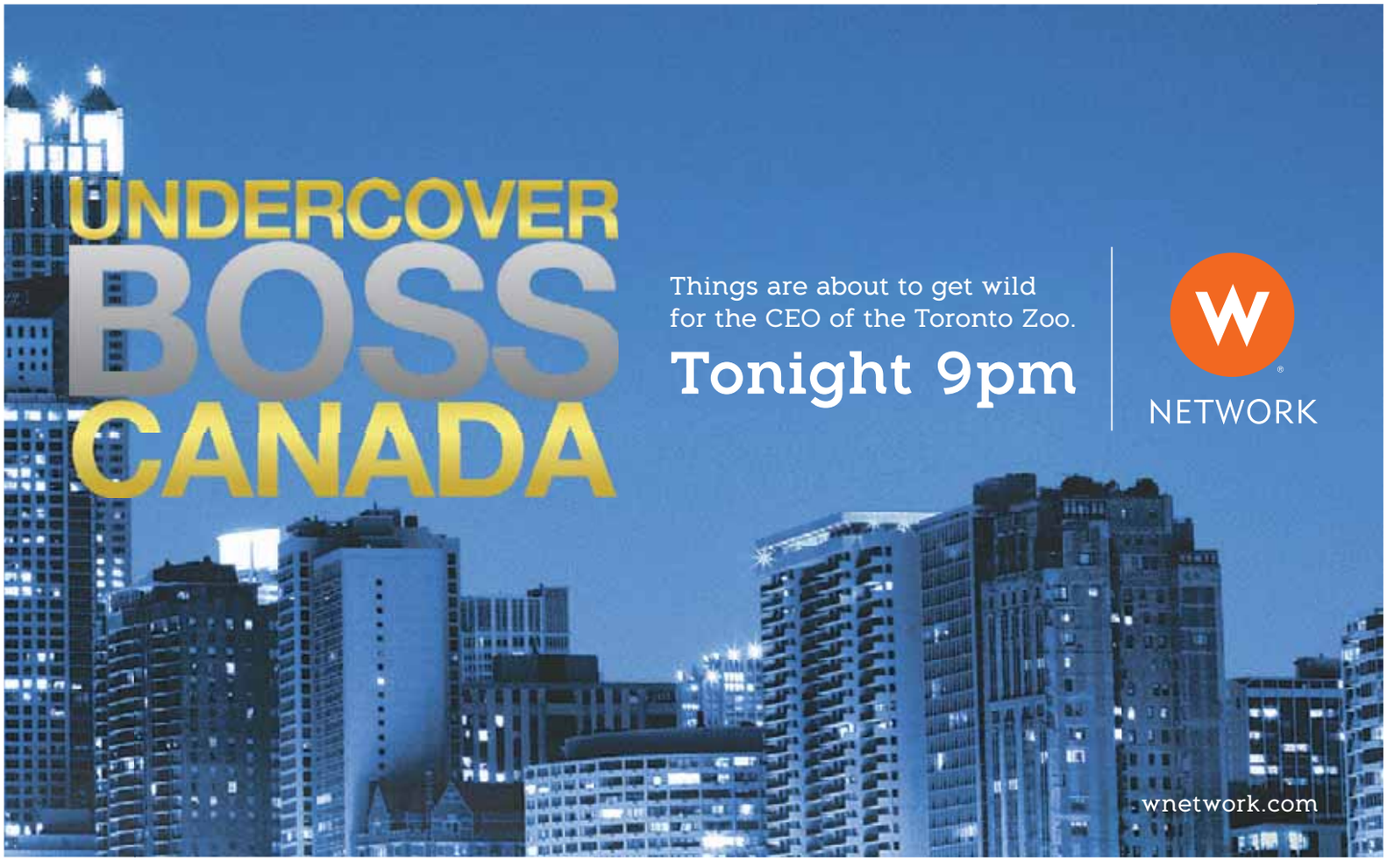


▶ Glenn Close as Albert Nobbs.

Close 'mans' up for role

Actress talks about playing a convincing man in Albert Nobbs

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Some actresses might view playing a woman who passes herself off as a man as a chance to not worry about beauty or vanity, but Glenn Close — who dons intricate drag in Albert Nobbs, as an Irish woman working as a butler in a Dublin hotel — insists such disregard is nothing new for her. "I've played a lot of roles where I haven't had to be pretty, so it's not something I spend a lot of time on," she says with a laugh.

The role of Albert Nobbs has been a favourite of Close's since she first played it on stage 20 years ago, and she feels the film version has been a long time coming. "I did it on stage, and it packed a huge emotional wallop — this simple story about this rather strange creature — and in theatre, when something like that happens you don't forget it," she says. "So as the years went by, I started thinking that if we could figure out how to do it, it could make a really powerful movie."

Finding inspiration in Albania

▶ Inspiration can come from a number of places, and for Glenn Close, the inspiration for how to present Albert Nobbs, a woman who has been disguising herself as a man, came from an obscure Albanian custom — with help from National Geographic. "I had this face of this Albanian woman, where they have in their culture something called sworn virgins, where if a family doesn't have a male heir they designate a woman to live as a man," Close says. "It came from National Geographic ... of a woman who was just living as a man — not putting on a fake mustache. Everybody knew she was a woman, but the life of a man had done something to her face."

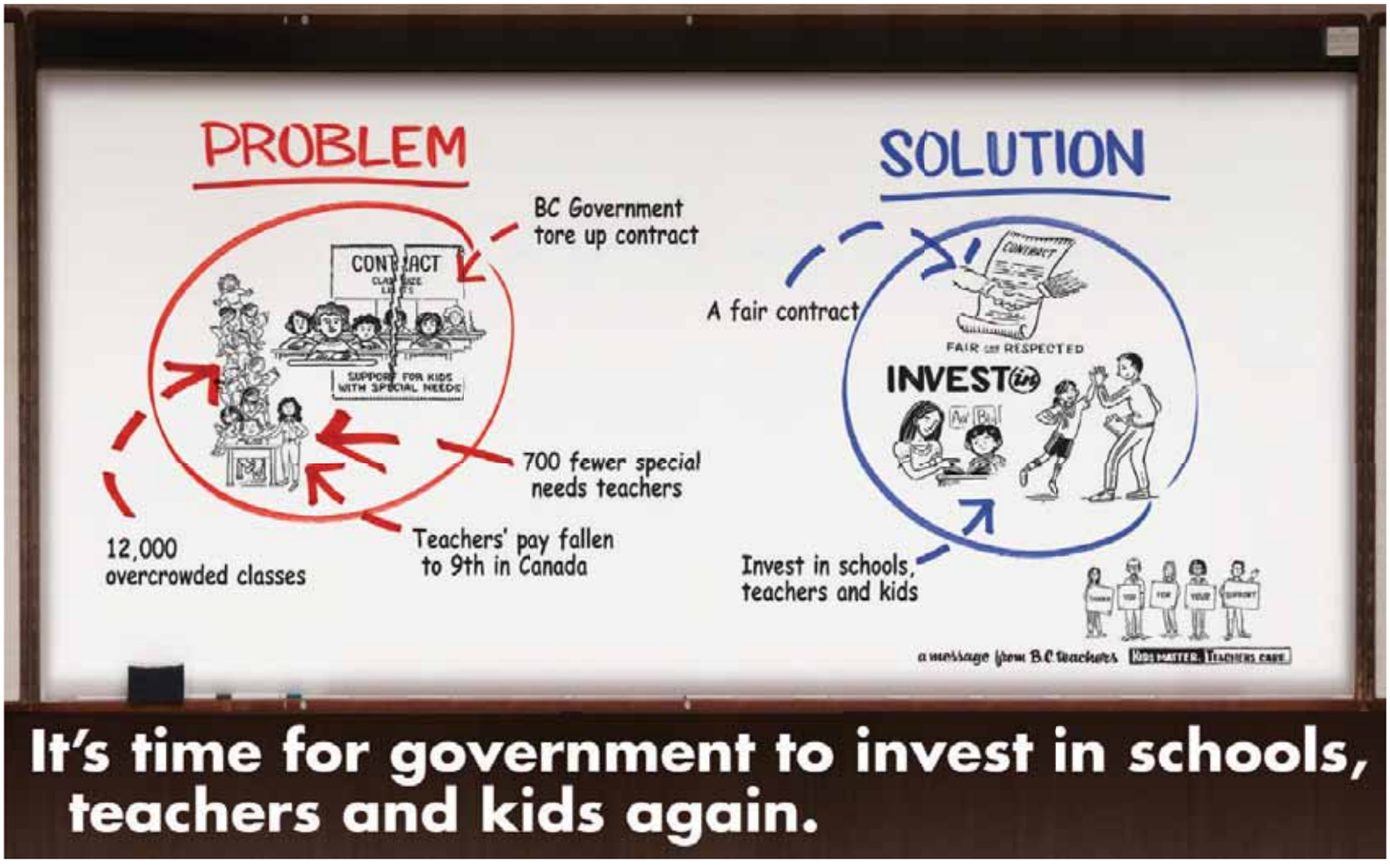
Turning a woman with Glenn Close's looks into what could pass for a man was a particular challenge, as the audience has to believe that the people around Albert buy it. "It was really important to us that the people in the movie didn't look like idiots," she says.

The answer? Some subtle makeup and prosthetics, including adding to Close's nose and earlobes. "It's just all very, very fine tuning and very, very subtle," she says. "And it's just extraordinary how much it actually changes your face."

While she's drawing plenty of acclaim — and awards attention — for her performance, what most excited Close was the work she got to do behind the scenes.

"I loved being a writer," she says.

"I loved the days when we had to do rewrites and I'd be in my Albert costume at my computer. I loved solving problems at production meetings because we couldn't afford to rent certain rooms, so could we change this scene to another room? Or just stuff like that."



Presley keeping Elvis' legacy alive

Daughter of the king of rock and roll has considered making a film that truly captures the music icon

There's a glass case in a room on Graceland's first floor that holds a small white fur coat, a photo album of Elvis Presley's family, and a blue record player used by his daughter, Lisa Marie.

Steps away, in its own display case, rests the well-worn key used to operate a golf cart she would ride in with her father on the grounds of his Memphis home. Pictures of Elvis and his baby daughter line adjacent walls.

These items are part of an exhibit opening Wednesday that honours the relationship Lisa Marie Presley had with her father, the late rock and roll icon Elvis Presley. Lisa Marie was in Memphis on Tuesday and Wednesday — her 44th birthday — in order to attend the exhibit's opening to VIP fans.

There are about 200 items in the exhibit, which Lisa Marie Presley called subjective and personal.

"I'm proud to be my father's daughter because that is something that changed the world," she told The Associated Press. "I do feel honoured about that."

Presley discussed a variety of topics, including a new album and thoughts about making a proper film about her father, who died in Memphis on Aug. 16, 1977. This year marks the 35th anniversary of his death, which is observed with a weeklong gathering of Elvis fans in August of every year.

Presley left Graceland at age five, when her mother, Priscilla, divorced Elvis and moved to California. She currently has homes in Los Angeles and England.

She did not want to talk at length about late pop star Michael Jackson, her former husband. The exhibit does display a photo of her and Jackson visiting a children's hospital in Budapest, Hungary.

"It was just one of the moments that was captured ... we were helping this child get a liver transplant," she said.

When asked what comes to mind when she thinks of Jackson, she said: "I can only say that I have good memories."

Presley said she has been working on her music and her third album set to come out in May. It is produced by Grammy-winner T-Bone Burnett.

"It's much more of a rootsy record, organic record, than my previous work," she said.

Presley has spent much of the past few years taking care of her three-year-old twin daughters she had with current husband Michael Lockwood. She has two children from her previous marriage to musician Danny Keough, which ended in 1994. She also was married to actor Nicholas Cage.

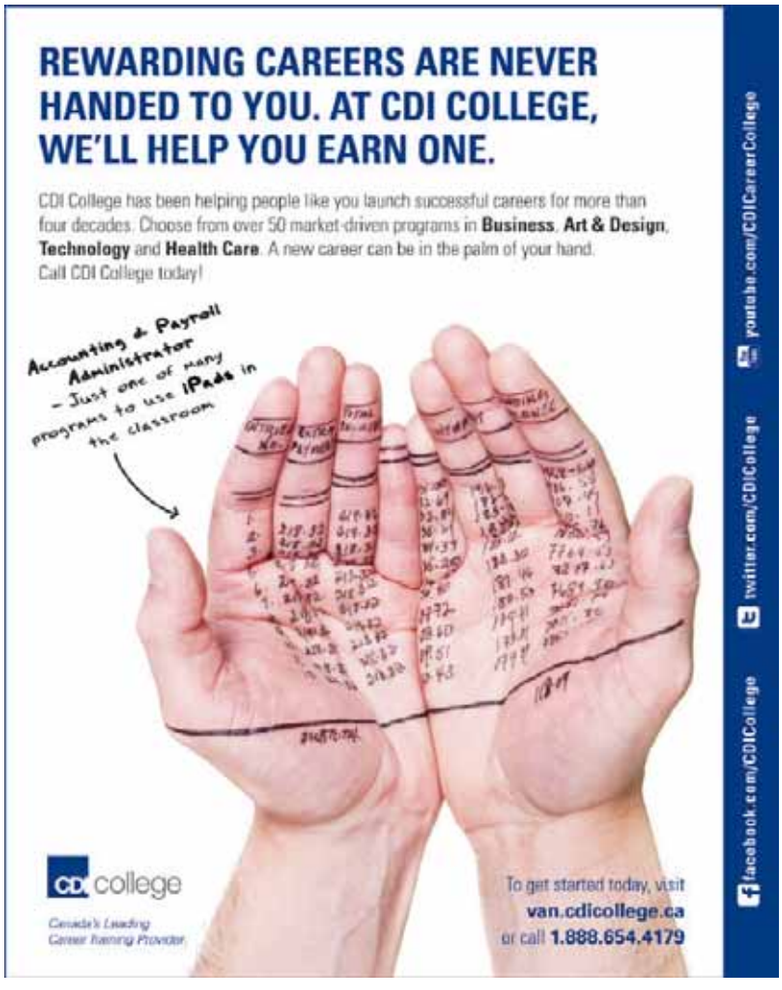
Presley does not grant many interviews but said she doesn't mind them when they are for a good cause. She said she does not like the tabloids.

Still, she stays involved with the workings of Elvis Presley Enterprises, which licenses her father's name and image in merchandising, music, television and film. Likenesses of Elvis have appeared in countless movies and TV shows, some without permission from the company.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lisa Marie Presley



Diverse lineup of stars cover Dylan

New compilation featuring big names like Adele and K'naan honours Amnesty International's 50th anniversary

THE CANAADIAN PRESS

▶ Bob Dylan

Anyone who ever doubted the transformative power of Bob Dylan's music need only look to Ke$ha.

Yes, Ke$ha.

The irreverent pop star, known for singing about brushing her teeth with "a bottle of Jack," turns poignant while covering a song from one of music's great lyricists on the new four-disc Chimes of Freedom: The Songs of Bob Dylan Honoring 50 Years of Amnesty International.

The project features 75 newly recorded Dylan songs by 80 artists, including Adele, Sting, Sugarland, Elvis Costello, hip-hop artist K'naan and others to support the human rights organization.

Ke$ha is one of the more unlikely stars to contribute to the compilation, released Tuesday. The pop star defined by party anthems like Tik Tok and Your Love Is My Drug took on Dylan's Don't Think Twice, It's Alright.

As she found herself alone in her bedroom for the first time in months, the words of the song — about a person bidding goodbye to a lover — took on a new, deeply personal meaning. She realized she was saying goodbye to her carefree, former life — before big hits and world tours brought on pressure and priorities.

She broke down as she began singing, and the emotion is captured on the record.

"Everything has changed. It's amazing, but there are moments that are incredibly lonely. There's a line, 'It's a long and lonesome road, babe, where I'm bound I can't tell.' It's tragically relevant," said Ke$ha in a phone interview.

"I think these are all positive things for young people to see that you can be strong and you can be irreverent and you can say what you want and you have the freedom of speech, but I've learned that vulnerability is actually an asset. It can be just as much of an asset as strength."

Ke$ha isn't the only eye-popping name on the compilation: 19-year-old Miley Cyrus does a rendition of You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go.

The project has a wide range of acts, from Maroon 5 to 92-year-old folk legend Pete Seeger, who sings Forever Young with a children's chorus.

Dylan waived the publishing rights to his entire catalogue, and all of the artists, musicians, engineers and others involved in the recording process did everything pro bono.

Legendary country artist and actor Kris Kristofferson considers Dylan a personal friend, but says he's been an inspiration and a hero a lot longer than that. Johnny Cash introduced them while Kristofferson was working as a janitor at Columbia Recording Studios in Nashville in the 1960s.

At 75, Kristofferson says he has been around long enough to understand and appreciate Dylan's impact on music.

"Music was a whole lot different when I was a little kid. Pop music was lifted up as an art form by Bob Dylan," Kristofferson said.

Chimes of Freedom is a follow-up to Amnesty International's 2007 collection of John Lennon songs performed by major artists, which raised over $4 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ke$sha

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Adele

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Warning: Will act if there are aliens involved

Former Friday Night Lights star takes to the world of sci-fi B.C.-born actor appears in two big films this year

FRANK CONNOR/DISNEY ENTERPRISES, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian actor and model Taylor Kitsch is pictured in a scene from the epic science fiction film John Carter.

The Friday Night Lights are far beyond Taylor Kitsch now. These days, if he sees something bright on the horizon, chances are it is extraterrestrial.

"That's how I pick my roles," the 30-year-old British Columbia-born actor explained. "'Wait, is there aliens in it? Oh well, why am I doing it, why would you call me if there are no aliens in it?' That's basically how it goes."

He's joking, but it's true. Kitsch has leading roles in two big movies this year — Battleship and John Carter — that will see him leave the small town Texas football scene of the critically acclaimed FNL TV series for the big screen world of sci-fi.

First up is Disney's interpretation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novel, released in March. John Carter sees Kitsch play a former military captain who is transported to Mars, a planet being torn apart by war.

It's directed by Andrew Stanton — of Finding Nemo and WALL-E fame — who is helming his first live-action movie.

Carter gets caught up in the conflicts and jumps into battle with a sword, loin cloth and plenty of muscle. Kitsch said Stanton insisted on a grueling regimen to get him mentally and physically prepared.

"It's the most boring diet you could think of, really. It was four months before and seven months during, so an 11-month regimen with that. Good times," he told The Associated Press in an interview.

"Training at 4:30 in the morning before you go to work, and then training for the four months before as well. And then during the day, you're training as well before takes."

But he said it was portraying Carter's feelings that really drained him.

"I'd say the emotion is probably the toughest thing. It's quite heavy some of the stuff he goes through," he said.

After that, it's Peter Berg's Battleship, which also stars Liam Neeson, Alexander Skarsgard and features Rihanna in her movie debut. Loosely based on the classic naval combat game from Hasbro, it sees five ships take on another five ships from a different planet.

The Canadian actor says he really enjoyed collaborating with his old FNL executive producer Berg on his Battleship role of naval officer Lt. Alex Hopper. There are still aliens but this time instead of a dusty planet there's a lot of ocean. Kitsch says he found his sea legs pretty quickly, which was good because the crew spent several weeks shooting on the water and some scenes had him blown straight into the ocean.

"So many variables come into play, obviously time consuming, you're always fighting the light apparently when you're shooting outside," he noted.

Still, Kitsch was very happy with the result.

"It's seamless the way they've done it," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coming soon

- Taylor Kitsch will be at the centre of two big films in the coming months. Disney's John Carter is set for a March release, while Battleship reaches U.K. theatres April 13 before hitting North America in May.

'Happy Valentine's! Love, Jon Hamm'

HEIDI PATALANO
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

The minute those Christmas decorations come down, inevitably the Valentine's Day hearts and cupids go up. Singletons surely dread it, but there's a way to cheer up them and/or the Mad Men fetishist in your life.

JD Beebe designed the Hamm-o-gram "to make anyone lonely on Valentine's Day forget about their moody blues."

For five dollars, you can have a personalized card — not an e-card — picturing Mad Men star Jon Hamm, mailed to a soon-to-be deliriously grateful recipient.

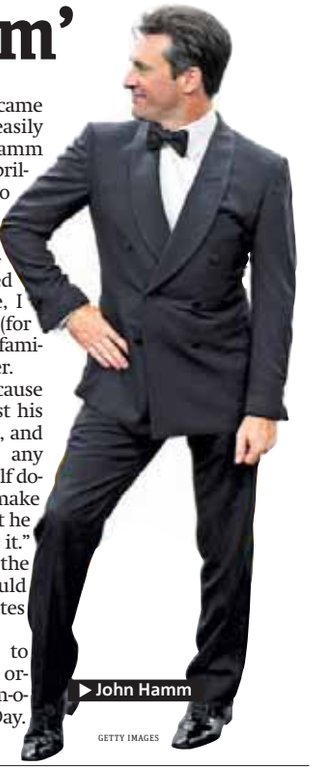
And guess what? Not only will you be bringing the joy of hot Hamm to others, you'll also be donating to charity.

Beebe explains: "I came up with the idea easily enough — Jon Hamm rhymes with gram (brilliant I know) — but I do like my silly projects to do some good. In an effort to be philanthropic and not get sued by the Hamm brigade, I chose A Caring Hand (for bereaved children and families) as a charity partner.

This was simply because Mr. Hamm actually lost his parents at a young age, and since I couldn't find any charities that he himself donated to I wanted to make it personal enough that he might see the good in it."

Everyone wins with the Hamm-o-gram. Could Charlie Day Chocolates be next?

Simply go to hammogram.com to order your own Hamm-o-gram for Valentine's Day.



John Hamm

GETTY IMAGES

Lea: We kinda wanna be ya

Glee gal Lea Michele is livin' large, surrounded by Candie's fancy things

Former brand spokeswomen include Fergie and Britney Spears

Lea Michele is moving from a locker to a much bigger closet. She's the star of the new Candie's ad campaign, dubbed Hanging at Home, shot at a private mansion in Beverly Hills.

The images show her poolside, in the kitchen, in a bed with satin sheets and in a walk-in closet, wearing a new outfit and pair of shoes in each one.

The 25-year-old star of Glee is following in the high-heel footprints of former brand spokeswomen Britney Spears and Fergie, among others.

Michele says she particularly liked Spears' old ads.

"I think they're fun and flirty and show off her body great."

Michele does a little showing off here, too, with some sexy poses, some silly poses and some glamorous ones.

Anyone who has seen Michele do a turn on the red carpet knows she has her moves down for the camera. She has become a "get" for designers eager to show off their gowns on a hot young starlet.

At the recent Golden Globes, she wore a silver Marchesa gown that was straight from the runway.

Her sentimental favourite gown, though, was probably the one she wore to her first Globes in 2010: a black, strapless Oscar de la Renta with a full skirt.

CANDIE'S/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Livin' la vida lovely: Lea Michele in Beverly Hills. Michele stars in Candie's new ad campaign, dubbed Hanging at Home.

Here's a few other tidbits from Michele in an email interview.

What was your wardrobe like in high school?
My wardrobe in high school was very simple. Jeans and maybe a sweatshirt and sneakers.

Is there a style trend that you love?
I love wide-leg, high-waisted pants. If done the right way, they're very chic.

Is there a trend you wish would go away?
Feathers in people's hair!

Do you have a guilty pleasure?
I LOVE beauty products. Face and body creams are my obsession.

The Candie's brand is available exclusively at Kohl's Department Stores in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Justifying the King's love

In the spotlight again, Madonna set to debut her film about royal romance

The focus in the days ahead is on Madonna the musician. She's set to perform the halftime show at the Super Bowl on Sunday and her new single, Give Me All Your Luvin,' with the white-hot Nicki Minaj, hits radio airwaves this week.

But the 53-year-old superstar is surely hoping that some of that spotlight will shine on her new movie, W.E., about the celebrated romance between divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson and Britain's King Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne for love in the 1930s.

"To me their lives were so diverse, complex and interesting, and there were so many different points of view to approach the story from," said Madonna during a recent interview about the film, which opens Friday.

"I think ultimately we have to save ourselves. ... You're going to be seriously setting yourself up for failure and disappointment if you think that one person is going to save you."
MADONNA ON FAIRY-TALE ROMANCES

Madonna doesn't star in W.E. — she's the film's director. It tells the story of Simpson (Andrea Riseborough) through the vantage point of a modern-day woman (played by Abbie Cornish) obsessed with the fabled romance between Simpson and Edward.

The union is often portrayed as the ultimate example of true love: Simpson was married when the pair began their relationship and was forever scandalized in royal circles. When Edward became king, he planned to marry her, but opposition to the union was so great, he chose to give up his kingdom. The two later wed and became known as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. For some, it was a modern-day fairy tale, but it's a notion Madonna debunks in W.E.

"I think a lot of women have that fantasy of about what's going to happen to them when they meet Mr. Right, Mr. Perfect, Mr. Complete Me, and then you realize that that doesn't actually exist," said the twice-divorced icon as she spoke about the film in a suite at the Waldorf Astoria.

"Love exists; I'm still a romantic, but it's not that fairy tale that we're all led to believe ... where the prince comes and kisses you."

It's a message Madonna used to instil in her daughter when the star would read Lourdes the typical bedtime stories featuring a damsel in distress who is saved by a knight.

Into the groove

- Madonna's interest in the duke and duchess was piqued after she moved to the United Kingdom during her marriage to Guy Ritchie.
- "I started kind of studying about being a foreigner, being an outsider, trying to understand this new country that I lived in with a class system, which America doesn't have," she said.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Madonna

"I'd get to the end of the story and go, 'Hey wait a second. Nobody asked her what she wanted.'... I suddenly started seeing how misleading all of these fairy tales were," she said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sean Penn named ambassador

Actor Sean Penn has been named ambassador at large for Haiti in recognition of his humanitarian work since the 2010 earthquake.

The Hollywood star received the honour from Haitian President Michel Martelly at a special ceremony Tuesday evening at the National Palace.

Martelly thanked Penn for keeping the spotlight on the Caribbean nation.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMON ESPINOSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Sean Penn, right, and Haiti's President Michel Martelly.

Winehouse's coroner resigns

The coroner who oversaw the inquest into the death of singer Amy Winehouse has resigned after her qualifications were questioned, officials said Wednesday — raising the possibility the investigation may have to be held again.

Winehouse's relatives said they were still absorbing the implications of the news and were seeking legal advice.

In October, Suzanne Greenaway had ruled that the soul singer had died from accidental alcohol poisoning.

Greenaway had been appointed an assistant deputy coroner in London in 2009 by her husband, Coroner Andrew Reid. But she resigned in November after authorities learned she had not been a registered U.K. lawyer for five years as required. She had practiced law for a decade in her native Australia.

"I appointed my wife as an assistant deputy coroner as I believed at the time that her experience as a solicitor and barrister in Australia satisfied the requirements of the post," he said in a statement Wednesday.

A security guard found Winehouse dead in bed July 23 at her home in the north London neighbourhood of Camden.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Amy Winehouse

No mini meatball ... yet

Calzone not in the oven for Snooki **Translation: Pregnancy rumour is false**

For a few brief, terrifying moments yesterday, we feared Snooki was pregnant.

It all started with an ugly, horrible, breakfast-ruining rumour from RadarOnline.

"She's been telling people that she has a big announcement coming," a source told the site, adding that boyfriend Jionni LaValle had been sharing the news with close family and friends.

While a photo search mercifully didn't reveal a Snooki bump, it did fail to turn up the expected number of drunk duck faces.

Finally, she made an appearance on Opie & Anthony to set the record straight: There will be no spawn of Snooki.

"Why are people calling me fat?" she wondered. "That's so rude!"

It is rude, Snooks. It is rude and we won't stand for it. MONICA WEYMOUTH

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Snooki

Celebrity tweets

@JessicaSimpson

Woke up looking like the lip injection fairy visited me in the night! Is this how pregnancy face begins?! Yikes!

@joshgroban

Newt's moon colony will cost us nothing. It will be paid for with moon money printed at a moon mint by a to-be-appointed moon treasurer.

@SteveMartinToGo

PLEASE DO NOT READ IF YOU ARE EASILY HYPNOTIZED: You are feeling sleepy.

@jeweljk

We have 56 calves on the ground- SO cute- ya just wanna hug them all!

Leslie Carter

Carter sister dies

Leslie Carter — younger sister of Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter and a star of House of Carters — died Tuesday in New York. No details have been released regarding the cause of death.

"Our family is grieving right now and it's a private matter. We are deeply saddened for the loss of our beloved sister, daughter, and granddaughter, Leslie Carter. We request the utmost privacy during this difficult time," her family said in a statement. METRO

Soul Train host Don Cornelius dead in apparent suicide

Soul Train producer and host Don Cornelius was found dead in his Los Angeles home early yesterday morning from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Cornelius created the show in 1970, and hosted it until 1993.

"He was a true television visionary and his contributions to African American culture, music, and entertainment are incomparable. The outpouring of affection and tributes to his legacy are a true testament to the profound impact that his life's work had on many generations," said Kenard Gibbs, CEO of Soul Train Holdings, in a statement. METRO

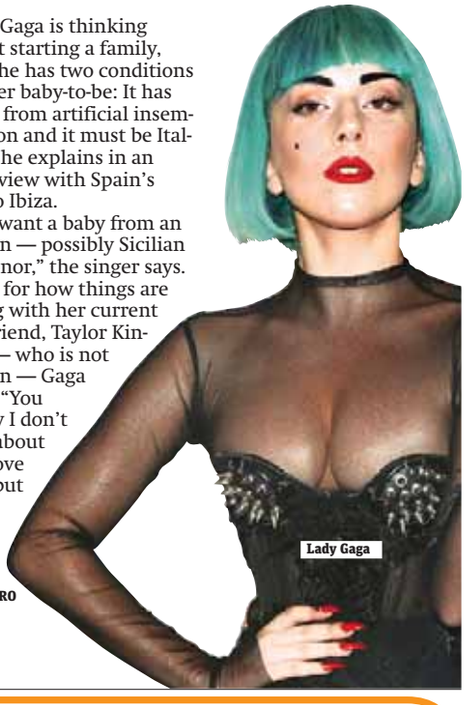
Don Cornelius

Note: Baby Gaga must be Italian

Lady Gaga is thinking about starting a family, but she has two conditions for her baby-to-be: It has to be from artificial insemination and it must be Italian, she explains in an interview with Spain's Radio Ibiza.

"I want a baby from an Italian — possibly Sicilian — donor," the singer says.

As for how things are going with her current boyfriend, Taylor Kinney — who is not Italian — Gaga says, "You know I don't talk about my love life, but I'm very happy." METRO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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

- The popularity of the wide-brimmed has been bubbling on the runway for a while now
- But this winter, hats from nearly all decades have become a full-blown trend
- Here are some of our favourites

Return of the hat
(you knew it would be back)

Alexandra Davenport, a student in London, pulls off the hat with aplomb.

1 AUBERGINE BORSALINO

$492, lockhatters.co.uk

2 SPORTMAX FEDORA

$118, my-wardrobe.com

3 PAUL SMITH FEDORA

$215, paulsmith.co.uk

4 EUGENIA KIM GABRIELLA RABBIT FELT FEDORA

$375, net-a-porter.com

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3 life

Oscar contenders?

The most award show worthy dresses from ss12 couture week:

Armani Privé

A strapless universally flattering shape + a shimmery bandage effect = Best Dressed List Bait. Take note Jessica.

Chanel

The whimsical, fashion-forward girliness is just right for one of the more adventurous 'Hollywood Young Things' (we're talking about you, Emma Stone.)

Gambattista Valli

It's black, edgy and mysterious with sheer panels and cut-outs. A total Rooney Mara kind of dress.

Toronto Fashion Week gets new name as World MasterCard becomes sponsor.

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A ruggedly handsome space

Home decor expert Karl Lohnes lays down the rules for choosing an area rug

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@
METRONEWS.CA

Q: I have laminate wood floors throughout my small condo and would like to add an area rug to the living room, which is 10 by 14 feet. What size should I choose and what style won't make it feel cramped?
T. Fulham, Winnipeg

A. Area rugs not only help to link living room furnishings together, but to define spaces that are open to one another as well.

The biggest mistakes people make when choosing an area rug is that they buy the wrong size (often too small), and they choose a look that doesn't belong with anything else in the room.

The simplest way to determine the right sized area rug in a living area is to measure the width of the room then subtract two or three feet; this will give you the width of the rug needed. For instance, if your room is 10-feet wide you will need an eight-foot wide rug.

Area rugs come in predetermined sizes; an eight-foot wide rug will be about 10-feet long. That is the size that suits your living area.

Best style of carpet

If you have printed fabrics on your furnishings or draperies then go with a discretely patterned or solid-coloured rug.

CONTRIBUTED

The right area rug can help define spaces that are open to one another.

If furnishings are upholstered in plain fabrics, then a patterned rug can help add pizzazz to the overall decor scheme.

Another idea is to take inspiration from artwork that you might have collected. For example, if you like watercolour paintings, then choose a rug that has soft, airy colours and patterns. If you collect black-and-white photography, then a solid, neutral-coloured rug will work nicely in the room.

If your room is feeling cramped with furnishings, then choose a colour of rug that is very similar to the colour of the wood flooring; this will give you the cosiness of the rug but visually will not chop up the space by adding yet another element.

How much to spend

An eight-by-10 foot area rug can cost from $200 to $5,000, depending on the quality. I always suggest spending between one to two times the price of the sofa. It's an easy way to gage the quality and value needed so the rug works with the rest of the room.

How will it wear?

- **Synthetic fibres** are durable for busy lived-in rooms and can take on the look of elegant wool and silk.
- **Think longevity** These rugs have about a five-year lifespan, whereas real wool carpets can last a lifetime.

Ready to be a winter warrior?

Snow in an average shovelful can weigh nearly 30 pounds **And twisting to throw a load is hard on the back**

DIY IDEAS

Although many areas have been relatively snow-free this winter, snow removal woes are just one storm away.

So here are some strategies, and the latest tools.

First, have a plan before the flakes start falling. If you're not physically up to shovelling, arrange for a plowing service or enlist some kids to at least do your walkways; many communities mandate that sidewalks be cleared within 24 hours of a storm.

If you are taking on the snow yourself, take it easy.

Warm up, start slow and cover your mouth if the air is very cold, according to Dr. Grace Cater, a cardiologist in Cleveland. "Snow shovelling can be more strenuous than exercising full throttle on a treadmill," Cater says on MetroHealth's Heart and Vascular Center's webpage.

Bill Foster, who for 40 years has shovelled his own and neighbours' snowy sidewalks and driveways in the western Chicago suburbs, says common sense can make the job easier.

"The biggest mistake people make is starting with the easy stuff," Foster says. "When you're freshest and strongest, start at the end of the driveway where the plow dumps all the heavy road snow."

A few more tips for keeping things manageable, from Good Housekeeping magazine:

1. Don't put your back into it: Use your leg and thigh muscles instead, and push more snow than you lift.

2. Layer up: No heavy down coats for this job — it's better to dress in layers you can remove as you work. Make sure caps or masks don't impede your ability to see cars, icy spots, or people. You don't want to whack someone with your shovel.

3. Drink up: Water keeps you hydrated as you work.

4. Stop when you need to, and take breaks every 15 minutes or sooner. Make sure family members and friends know you're out there.

TORO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Garden-variety snow shovels have been doing the snow removal job for hundreds of years, but many of today's tools can make it easier. Shown is Toro's electric Power Curve snow shovel.

Foster recommends cutting the driveway down the middle so you are shovelling smaller passes out to the sides from the centre line.

"And never wait till the snow stops falling," he says. "I'd go out two or three times during a storm to stay ahead of it all."

Popular Mechanics writer Roy Berendsohn advises clearing the car off thoroughly before starting on the driveway. He also recommends keeping a stiff brush and some oil handy to remove buildup on snow-blower blades. Make sure paths are clear of newspapers, dog toys, rocks and electrical cords before you fire yours up.

Also, decide where the snow's going to go before you start. Starting to shovel from the house out to the perimeter of the property is inefficient. Drop the first load far enough away from where you start so that you'll have room for piles as you work your way back to your starting position

The term "snow thrower" might conjure up visions of an industrial-size, gas-powered apparatus, but electric snow throwers might be an easier option for homeowners on smaller properties that see frequent snowfalls.

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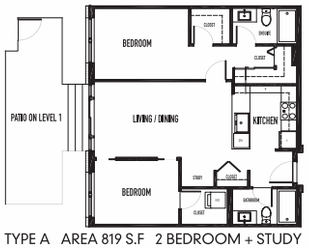

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Flavour of simplicity

This rib roast with roasted veggies and shallot-merlot gravy makes for an elegant dinner party meal ▶ Features readily available pantry staples

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ Perfect for a dinner party, this meal serves 24.

Make a special meal for your next dinner party with this rib roast, roasted veggies and a flavourful gravy made with shallots and merlot wine.

Preparation:

1 In large roasting pan, arrange onions, carrots, celery, garlic, thyme and rosemary in even layer.

2 Season rib roast all over with salt and pepper. Place roast on top of vegetables in roasting pan. Roast in 245 C (475 F) oven 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 160 C (325 F). Roast for 2 to 2 1/2 hours or until roast reads 55 C (130 F) at the centre for medium or 50 C (120 F) for medium-rare.

3 Transfer roast to a serving platter and cover with foil and keep warm. Set aside roasting pan.

4 Roasted Root Vegetables: In bowl, toss carrots, parsnips, beets and potatoes with oil, rosemary, salt and pepper. Spread evenly on 2 rimmed baking sheets. When roast comes out of oven, raise temperature to 200 C (400 F). Roast vegetables, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes or until tender and browned.

5 Shallot Merlot Gravy: Place roasting pan over medium-high heat. Add wine to reserved roasting pan juices and scrape up any browned bits from bottom of pan. Using slotted spoon, remove and discard any solids. Add shallots, thyme, and 500 ml (2 cups) of the beef broth. Bring to simmer; cook 3 minutes.

6 In bowl, whisk remaining beef broth and flour. While stirring , add this mixture to roasting pan. Cook while stirring for 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve roasted vegetables and gravy alongside roast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients:

- 4 onions, quartered
- 4 each large carrots, cut into large pieces
- 4 each celery stalks, cut into large pieces
- 1 head garlic, broken into cloves and peeled
- 4 sprigs each fresh thyme and rosemary
- 1 bone-in rib roast (5.5 to 6.3 kg/12 to 14 lb)
- Salt and black pepper

Roasted Root Vegetables

- 1 kg (2 lb) each carrots, parsnips, beets, and Yukon gold potatoes cut into 1-cm (1/2-inch) pieces
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) canola or vegetable oil
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped fresh rosemary
- 10 ml (2 tsp) salt
- 5 ml (1 tsp) black pepper

Shallot-Merlot Gravy

- 250 ml (1 cup) Merlot wine
- 2 shallots, finely diced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced fresh thyme
- 750 ml (3 cups) beef broth
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- Salt and black pepper

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Weekly Cookbook

Pitchin' In chronicles Food Network celebrity chef Lynn Crawford's road trip across North America, describing the people she meets, the land, and of course, the food.

Crawford shares more than 100 amazing and simple recipes from her adventures. These eats include Cider-Glazed Pork Chops, Crispy Calamari Salad, Roasted Scallops, and Lamb Shepherd's Pie.

The chef also includes desserts such as Pecan Blueberry Cobbler and Red Velvet Cupcakes.

Oysters main attraction in canapes

This recipe calls for pumpernickel bread but you can also use crackers or flatbreads

With smoked oysters in your pantry you can whip up this simple little appetizer in minutes!

Change up this recipe by using a variety of crackers or flatbreads and breads for serving instead of pumpernickel bread.

The topping used here can also be served as a dip for crackers or even veggies.

Preparation:

1. In a small bowl, combine sour cream, mayonnaise, horseradish and chives.
2. Divide mixture equally among appropriate number of breads.
3. Top each with 1 smoked oyster. Garnish as desired.

CLOVER LEAF/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THIS RECIPE WAS ADAPTED FOR METRO NEWS BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Ingredients:

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sour cream
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) light mayonnaise
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) prepared horseradish
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) finely chopped chives
- 1 can (85 g) smoked oysters, drained
- Dark rye or pumpernickel bread

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe serves 16.

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Could Luongo catch Brodeur?

THE HOCKEY NEWS

EDWARD FRASER
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Late last year, THN released a book entitled Hockey's Most Amazing Records (edited by one helluva handsome man, if I do say so myself). On top of the 125 feats we detailed, we examined the excellence of three who are synonymous with records: Wayne Gretzky, the Montreal Canadiens and Martin Brodeur.

We shone the spotlight on this trio because we figured all have posted multiple marks so far out of reach it would take a significant change in rules — permanent 4-on-4; larger nets; massive contraction — for anyone to even dream of surpassing them.

But I got to wondering lately if we weren't a touch hasty putting Brodeur on the pedestal. Could Roberto Luongo surpass some of his achievements?

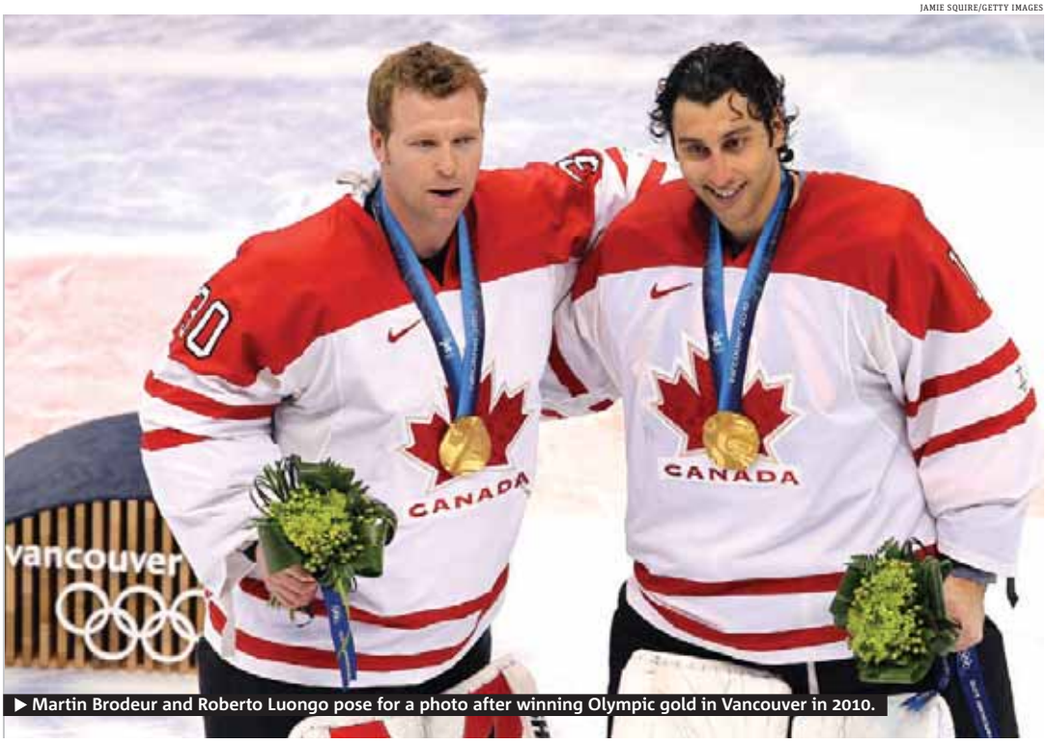
Luongo is 32 years old. Brodeur is 39. It certainly won't help Bobby Lu's cause that Brodeur has stated he expects to keep playing beyond this season, but there's no doubt he's on the decline while Luongo still has years left in his prime.

Brodeur's zenith is the all-time wins record, which currently sits at 640. Luongo's total is 328. Let's assume Brodeur picks up another 10 victories in 2011-12 and matches his projected total from this season (25) again next year. If he called it a career at that point, the number to beat would be 690. Yowza. Let's give Luongo 35 this season for a total of 363, which would make the chasm 327. If he, like Brodeur, plays until he's 40, Luongo would have to put up an average of 41 wins over the next eight years to catch up. That's a Chara-sized stretch, but this Canucks team looks to be a good one for many years to come and with, in all likelihood, Cory Schneider plying his trade in another market come next year, Luongo will see more crease time in the coming seasons.

Now what about Brodeur's second-most respected feat, his 116 career shutouts? He's yet to blank an opponent this season, so let's say his Days of Naught are done and leave him there. Luongo has 57 clean sheets now and let's tag on another three to leave him 56 behind with eight seasons to bridge the gap. That's an average of seven per campaign. Ouch. If he maintains his current pace of shutting out an opponent once every 10 games, he'd have to play 560 games, which is an average of 70 per season over the next eight years. Unless the Canucks plan on hiring Mike Keenan, that's not going to happen. The faint bright light, however: Luongo totalled nine shutouts in 2008-09, so he's shown he can post goose eggs in bunches.

The likelihood Luongo catches up to either mark is extremely improbable, but not impossible. Hey, I'd certainly put cash on that before placing a bet at any odds on someone passing the Great One's points record or the Habs' Stanley Cup total.

JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Martin Brodeur and Roberto Luongo pose for a photo after winning Olympic gold in Vancouver in 2010.

Brewers outfielder takes to the ice with Sharks

On his fourth attempt during a hockey breakaway drill, Nyjer Morgan shot the puck past Sharks goalie Thomas Greiss to score in the bottom right corner of the net. Greiss did the Milwaukee Brewers outfielder a favour and let it go in, with Morgan later thanking him with a firm pat to the chest pad.

A giddy Morgan cheered, thrust his stick in the air and became a bit wobbly on the ice before recovering.

When asked about it after his outing Wednesday, he became defensive.

"But how many athletes do you know who can just jump on the ice and do what I just did? Exactly," Morgan said. "Pretty cool, huh? It's been many moons, it's been a lot of years, yeah. And I've still got it, you see that?"

At last, the diehard San Jose fan and former hockey player got the chance to practise with the team he loves.

"Tony Plush," as he refers to himself, stepped out for the first time 36 minutes into the hour-long session sporting a Sharks jersey with "Plush" on back.

Morgan's first three shots on goal were easily stopped by Greiss, who eased up on the last attempt.

"He just came down with a nice shot and put it in," Greiss said. "He skates really well. He's said he likes to get on his skates and have fun. You could see that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First love

Morgan grew up playing hockey and appeared in seven games with the Regina Pats.

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Nyjer Morgan, right, shakes hands with former San Jose Sharks player Mike Ricci.

4 sports

Canucks preview

Detroit at Vancouver
7 p.m.
TV: SNET

The Canucks (31-15-4) host Detroit (34-16-1) in a battle between the top two teams in the Western Conference. Jiri Hudler scored his 16th goal of the season as the Red Wings defeated Calgary 3-1 on Tuesday. Hudler has three goals in the last two games. Jimmy Howard stopped 28 shots for his league-leading 31st win of the season. Detroit lost three of 13 games in January, all on the road. Tomas Holmstrom (knee) is day-to-day.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

After 39-pass season, Jackson gets cut by Lions

The B.C. Lions released veteran quarterback Jarious Jackson on Wednesday.

The move comes less than a year after Jackson signed a two-year deal with the Lions that was reportedly worth $130,000 annually, with incentives.

The six-foot-one, 232-pound Jackson saw limited duty in 2011 behind Travis Lulay, the CFL's outstanding player. Jackson attempted just 39 passes during the regular season, completing 18-for-263 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions.

"Thx to Jarious for all his help and advice over the last couple of years, always a great teammate! 1st-class, team-first guy," Lulay tweeted.

Tailback Andrew Harris echoed those sentiments.

"J. Jackson was a huge player-mentor to me! Very disappointed to see him go.. Its all part of the business tho. All the best J.J!," he wrote on his Twitter account.

Jackson, who played his college football at Notre Dame, joined the Lions in 2004 as a practice-roster player. He became B.C.'s starter during the 2007 season when Dave Dickenson and Buck Pierce were both out with injuries.

Jackson posted a 9-2 record and completed 167-of-304 passes for 2,553 yards with 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions over that span. He re-signed with B.C. following the 2007 campaign but began the '08 campaign as Pierce's backup.

Over his eight-year stint with B.C., the 34-year-old native of Tupelo, Miss., earned two Grey Cup rings (2006, 2011).

Prior to signing with B.C., Jackson spent four seasons with the NFL's Denver Broncos.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

51

Number of TDs thrown by Jackson in his Lions career, compared to 35 interceptions. He completed 499-of-919 passes for 7,032 yards.

WHITECAPS

Sanvezzo re-signed

The Vancouver Whitecaps re-signed top goalscorer Camilo Sanvezzo on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old Brazilian enjoyed a successful 2011 campaign with the Major League Soccer team following a pre-season trial.

He led Vancouver with 13 goals in all competitions, including 12 in MLS play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VICTOR DECOLONGON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Cody Hodgson controls the puck in the corner against the Los Angeles Kings.

Hodgson making case he's NHL's best rookie

Young forward thriving after back injury that nearly derailed his career

Edmonton's Ryan Nugent-Hopkins looked like a shoo-in for the NHL's award for rookie of the year early in the season.

Now, with Nugent-Hopkins injured, Vancouver Canucks centre Cody Hodgson is taking a run for the honours.

Hodgson's name has come up repeatedly in rookie-of-the-year debate on sports radio talk shows and elsewhere, and he is not doing anything on the ice to hurt his chances.

Heading into Thursday's game against the Western Conference-leading Detroit Red Wings, he has four goals in his past five games and a total of five points in that span. The Toronto native sits fourth in rookie scoring with 30 points, just five points back of Nugent-Hopkins. New Jersey's Adam Henrique (34) and Philadelphia's Matt Read (31) hold precarious leads on the Canuck.

"It's been a good month. I feel more and more comfortable as we get going here."
CODY HODGSON

"Obviously, there's a lot of great rookies in the league and just to be mentioned and to go to the all-star game as one of the top 12 is pretty cool," said Hodgson after practice Wednesday. "Just to be mentioned as a candidate, it's obviously an honour. But it's something I don't really take too much stock in right now. It's still early."

But Hodgson's rise to prominence has come later than expected. The 21-year-old is taking advantage of delayed development to shine with limited ice time.

After injuring his back during a team-supervised off-ice training session in the summer of 2009, Hodgson missed most of his final junior season with the OHL's Brampton Battalion in 2009-10 and missed an opportunity to play a second time for Canada's world junior entry.

Hodgson, Vancouver's first-round draft choice (10th overall) in 2008, spent most of his first pro season in the AHL with Vancouver's former Manitoba farm team before joining the Canucks permanently for the latter part of the regular season and playoffs as they went to the Stanley Cup final.

"Not too many people would have thought that I would be here right now," he said. "But I had a lot of support. I owe a lot of people thanks for getting me back to this point — and getting me healthy again and back in shape and in a positive frame of mind."

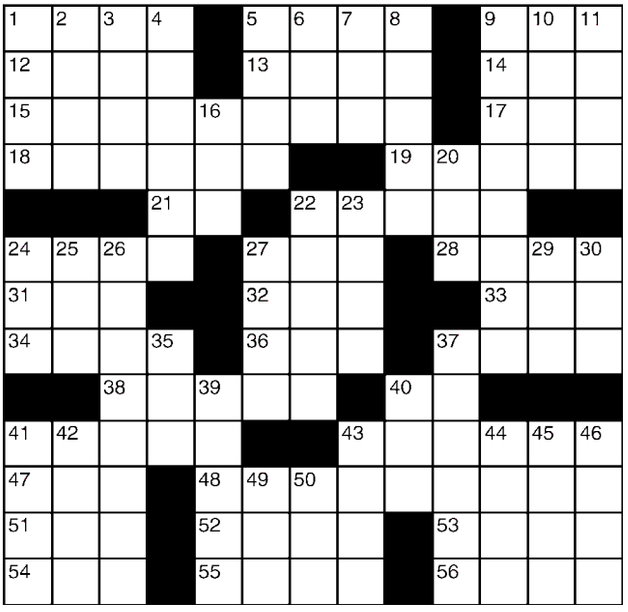
When Hodgson returned to the ice, he did an off-ice warmup for 30 to 45 minutes before games and practices. Now, he limits the regimen to about five minutes before a practice and 10 prior to a game.

"Having a good summer training this year, trying to work out all those kinks, really helped," he said. "Just having your body work properly is a huge bonus."

He is still classified as a rookie because he did not play the required 25 regular-season games in 2010-11. This season, he has established himself as a fixture as the third-line centre ahead of veterans Manny Malhotra (since moved to the wing on the fourth line) and Max Lapierre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crossword



Across
1 Close
5 Sidewalk eatery
9 Eccentric
12 Volcanic outflow
13 "Caro nome" is one
14 Ultra-modernist
15 Comic's specialty
17 Right angle
18 Book after Job
19 iPhone function
21 Chance, for short
22 Hue
24 Presentation
27 Second person
28 Out of control
31 Charged bit
32 Pismire
33 Ram's mate
34 Profound
36 In medias —
37 Seaport of Yemen
38 Exciting
40 Commercial
41 Search for prey
43 Plant life treatises
47 Rowing need
48 Getting the jump on
51 USO audience
52 Trumpet
53 Chinese gang
54 Praise in verse
55 Dumbstruck
56 Remain

Down
1 Feed the hogs
2 — Christian Andersen
3 Eye layer
4 Candle fat
5 Trash containers
6 "All the Things You —"
7 Evergreen type
8 Supporter of the arts?
9 — bandit (slot machine)
10 Sandwich shop
11 Action figure, really
16 Mischievous kid
20 Kiwi's extinct cousin
22 — Island
23 Inning trio
24 Rocker Vicious
25 Weeding tool
26 Small town description
27 Play area
29 Have bills
30 Barbie's companion
35 Parishioner's seat
37 Takes as one's own
39 Island greeting
40 Matterhorn, for one
41 Comic strip possum
42 Incursion
43 Money supply
44 Laugh-a-minute
45 "— Karenina"
46 Like custard or quiche
49 Present
50 Before

▶ Yesterday's answer

P	U	P	A		S	A	W		A	R	A	M	
I	R	I	S		C	I	A		P	E	R	U	
E	G	G	H	E	A	D	S		O	D	E	S	
R	E	S	E	L	L		P	A	S	H	A	S	
		S	U	P		S	I	T	E				
A	D	A		L	E	O		L	L	A	M	A	
S	N	I	P		D	A	M		E	D	A	M	
P	A	R	I	S		K	I	M		S	O	P	
		H	A	I	R		N	I	L				
S	I	E	N	N	A		A	N	E	M	I	A	
A	C	A	I		J	A	R	H	E	A	D	S	
R	O	D	S		I	C	E		K	Y	L	E	
I	N	S	T		V	E	T		S	O	Y	A	

Sudoku

	5		1		8		2	
	1	6	3		4	7	9	
6			2		3			5
		4	8		5	3		
5			9		1			7
	7	9	4		6	1	5	
	3		7		2		8	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

6	1	8	2	4	5	7	9	3
5	2	7	3	9	8	4	1	6
4	9	3	1	7	6	8	2	5
2	3	5	4	8	1	9	6	7
1	7	4	6	2	9	5	3	8
8	6	9	5	3	7	2	4	1
3	4	6	8	5	2	1	7	9
9	5	2	7	1	3	6	8	4
7	8	1	9	6	4	3	5	2

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K T,
I never believed in soulmates until I looked into your eyes. The way you have touched my life there can be no one else. Please find your way back to me.
A S

The Muscle Man,
You stimulate me with your metal wires and I send you my M-wave. Oh what an image your sweet arteries have left on my heart. Come and get another balloon?
KINETICALLY YOURS, OXYGEN

Mushroommelt,
Your mushroomness brightens my day, and there isn't enough mushroom melts to make the world go round in my opinion! I miss bussing to school with you and head bobbing on the way home, change your school schedule so mushroom and tuna melts can rule the world again. P.S check your sugars. **TUNAMELT**

Today 8°/3° Variable
Friday 9°/4° Cloudy

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
No matter how difficult a situation may be, you are smart enough to find a solution and apply it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Some of the things a loved one says may annoy you today but there is no point getting annoyed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Wherever you've been held back in recent weeks is where you'll make progress over the next few days.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If you make an effort to look beyond everyday issues, you will discover something that has the potential to transform your life.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
The best way to deal with changing circumstances is to adapt yourself. Try moving with the times.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Someone will come to your aid today. Don't turn down his or her offer of assistance just because you don't want to look weak.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
The planets indicate it will be to your benefit to try to see yourself as others see you today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Fate is about to give you an opportunity to prove yourself and if you are smart, you will take advantage.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Don't let people who don't know what they are talking about rub you up the wrong way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You like to check and double check before making a move. Be true to your nature today.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
With Neptune, planet of illusion, about to move into the main financial area of your chart, it's not the time to be taking risks with money.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Don't take too much for granted today. Stay alert if you want to stay on your feet. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

NORBERT MILLAUER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CODY DUTY, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/ THE AP

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Appraisal value: $5,500.00
J&M Regular Price $1,999.00
J&M Sale Price $1,299.00

18kt curb link chain with 1.00 carat round brilliant cut diamond
Appraisal value: $12,800.00
J&M Regular Price $7,279.00
J&M Sale Price $4,731.00

14kt pendant with 5.5 carat ruby surrounded by 33 diamonds (0.5 cttw)
Appraisal value: $4,200.00
J&M Regular Price $1,995.00
J&M Sale Price $1,295.00

14kt ring with 0.59 carat diamond and 0.35 cttw diamonds on band
Appraisal value: $4,250.00
J&M Regular Price $1,995.00
J&M Sale Price $1,297.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)
Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00
J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

18kt pendant with 0.42ct centre stone surrounded by 0.15 cttw halo of diamonds
Appraisal value: $3,000.00
J&M Regular Price $1,199.00
J&M Sale Price $777.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 cttw baguette and round diamonds
Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00
J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

Gold by weight. Dare to compare.

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams
J&M Regular Price $473.00
J&M Sale Price $377.00

18kt white gold earrings with cubic zirconias, 2 grams
J&M Regular Price $159.00
J&M Sale Price $103.00

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14kt yellow gold mens' solid curb link 22" necklace, 23.71 grams
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J&M Sale Price $1,227.00

14kt yellow gold ladies' dinner ring, 3.23 grams
J&M Regular Price $209.00
J&M Sale Price $167.00

Gold by weight.
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J&M Price Comparison

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